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CHAIRMAN—Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN ROBERT MOWBRAY, Bart., M.P., D.C.L.

ELEVENTH BONUS MEETING, 1882.

The Report presented at a Meeting held on the 5th January last showed that on the rigorous basis of the Institute of Actuaries' Hm Table of Mortality with 3 per cent. interest and net premiums,

The calculated liability was	£1,970,019
To which further Reserves were added of ..	116, 684
Making the Total Reserves	2,086,703
And the Assurance Fund being	2,433,397
The Net Surplus was	£346,694

Of this sum, £345,000 was divided—an amount larger by £45,000 than any previously distributed, and producing the highest ratio of profit ever declared by the Society—viz, a

CASH BONUS OF 32 PER CENT.

on the Premiums of the Five Years.

CLAIMS PAID IMMEDIATELY ON PROOF OF DEATH AND TITLE.

The Next Division of Profits will be in January, 1887. New policies effected before the end of June next will then rank for Five full Years' Bonus, and so obtain one year's additional share of profits.

The Report above mentioned, a detailed account of the proceedings of the Bonus meeting, the returns made to the Board of Trade, and every information can be obtained at either of the Society's Offices, or from any of its Agents.

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B. NEWBATT, Assistant Actuary.

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WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The selection of two Vice-Presidents in the French Chamber exhibited division in the Republican ranks. The candidate of the Republican Union, which supports M. Gambetta's views, was defeated. The Commercial Treaty negotiations with Great Britain are in a very uncertain position, M. Tirard, the new Minister of Commerce, being strenuously opposed to further concessions.

A semi-official note published in Paris states that explanations given by the British Government at Berlin through Mr. Goschen, and elsewhere by diplomatic correspondence, have satisfied the European Powers that the Joint Note with respect to Egyptian affairs was not conceived in an exclusive spirit by either Great Britain or France.

A law gazetted on Thursday enables the children of foreigners naturalised during the minority of the former to adopt French nationality when old enough to enter Government schools or to volunteer for the army or navy. The consent of the father, or, if he is dead, of the mother or guardians, is necessary. Children of age at the date of their father's naturalisation may claim naturalisation within twelve months therefrom. The children of persons recovering French nationality are to be treated in like manner.

M. Paul Bert has laid upon the table of the Chamber of Deputies his Bill "concerning the public exercise of Catholic worship in France," which aims really at the complete suppression of the clergy. Respecting this measure the Paris correspondent of the *Standard* writes:—"The preamble, from beginning to end, breathes that spirit of intolerance and tyranny by which the late Minister of Worship and the other members of the grand Ministry so distinguished themselves during their brief tenure of power. The Bill itself consists of two classes of enactments. One series of clauses prescribes certain penal provisions for the enforcement of the Concordat and the Organic Article, while another aims at stripping the Catholic clergy of all the rights, privileges, and immunities which even the strictest interpretation of the Concordat would allow them. Of the penal clauses, which comprise an entire code, it will be enough to say that they include suspensions of stipend, and fines and imprisonment. In answer to the question why punishments should be called for which Napoleon Bonaparte would never have dreamed of instituting, M. Paul Bert replies, 'Bonaparte had little taste for ideal methods.' Among the deprivations decreed by the clauses of the second portion of the Bill are the abolition of free scholarships in the seminaries, the abolition of the salaries of canons, and, to come to trifles, the restriction of vicarage-gardens to a certain prescribed area, prescriptions and prohibitions relative to donations and legacies, with others too numerous to be mentioned. The abolition of the exemption of priests from obligation to military service, and further measures against the religious congregations, will, it is announced, form the subjects of a separate Bill. The publication of this Bill has called forth general reprobation, even from pronounced Republican writers and journalists."

The Paris Civil Tribunal gave judgment on Wednesday on the question of a novelist's right to use the names of real personages. The circumstances out of which the action arose have already been stated. The court held that the Duverday of "Pot Bouillé" was capable of bringing the real Duverdy into odium or ridicule; that this was as liable to action in a novel as in a play; that though the defendant had disclaimed any knowledge of the plaintiff's existence, his appellate judge at Paris might be identified by a reader with the advocate in that court; and that the insertion of the judgment in the *Gaulois* would offer sufficient satisfaction. It accordingly ordered that within a week the name Duverday should disappear from the novel; that every day's default should involve 100 francs damages; and that no change of spelling leaving the pronunciation unaffected would be consider adequate. The claim for damages was rejected, but the defendant was condemned in costs.

ITALY.—A small group of mourners stood on Tuesday morning around an open grave dug next to that of John Keats in the old and long-disused portion of the Protestant cemetery at the foot of the pyramid of Caius Cestius. They were Mr. Walter Severn and three friends, who met him there to see the remains of his father, Joseph Severn, privately removed from where they were interred at the time of his death in 1879, and laid in the resting-place he had always desired, alongside his friend. This was done preparatory to the ceremony of inaugurating, on Thursday next, the small monument prepared for him, and in order that it might be in its place. The friends of Keats and Severn had first contemplated erecting at the head of their joint graves a marble group representing the death of Keats in Severn's arms, but the consideration of what, perhaps, may be called the peculiar sanctity of time, to say no more, has attached to the simple headstone with the broken lyre, and the record that the name of the one lying there was written in water, induced them to abandon that idea, and erect instead a simple headstone identical to that at the head of Keats's grave, bearing on the upper part a painter's pallet and brushes carved in low relief, to correspond to the lyre on the other, and below it the following inscription, written by Lord Houghton, and divided by a small blank space into two separate parts:—"To the memory of Joseph Severn, devoted friend and death-bed companion of John Keats, whom he lived to see numbered among the immortal poets of England. An artist eminent for his representations of Italian life and nature, British Consul at Rome from 1861 to 1872, and an officer of the Crown of Italy in recognition of his services to freedom and humanity. Died August 3, 1879, aged 85." On the back of the stone are inscribed the names of the subscribers, among which are those of Lord Houghton, Lord Rosebery, Sir F. Leighton, J. E. Millais, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Hon. C. R. Lowell, H. W. Longfellow, Sir Vincent Eyre, Lord Coleridge, Baron Bunsen, W. M. Rossetti, D. G. Rossetti, and Walter, Henry, and Arthur, the three sons of Joseph Severn. In digging the grave the remains were found of a young child of Joseph Severn's, who was accidentally killed at the age of 11 months, and buried by the side of Keats nearly fifty years ago. These have now been placed at the foot of his father's coffin, and a small stone has been erected there, but a little on one side, recording the child's name and death, and mentioning that the poet Wordsworth was present in Rome at his baptism in 1836. The service for the removal of a body from one grave to another, which was specially prepared and read by the Rev. H. W. Wasse, included Psalm xc., and some other passages from the Burial Service, and some verses from the Book of Wisdom, and ended with the following ancient Collect sent by the Dean of Salisbury:—"O God, who has given unto us brotherly love and parental affection for our consolation, assist and bless us in this our labour, that we may feel and know that Thou dost come to us through those in whom Thou dost dwell, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

Leo XIII. has addressed a letter of a very grave nature to the Italian Bishops, in which, after describing the situation as fraught with dangers, he draws their attention to the labours of the enemies of the Church for the destruction of all religion. He denounces those who insist that the Papacy is an enemy to civilisation and the welfare of the people, and declares, on the contrary, that it has always exercised its best influence in their interests. He conjures the Bishops to open their eyes to the dangers surrounding them and not to keep silence; to increase the action and encourage the work of the Catholic lay societies throughout the Peninsula; to protest boldly in favour of the temporal independence of the Head of the Church; to organise and develope the Catholic Press at every sacrifice, and to inspire their clergy with full conception of the difficulties to be met. These views, we are informed, the Pope has developed at great length and with a degree of vigour which, notwithstanding the moderation of the language he employs, is calculated to create a considerable impression.

GERMANY.—M. de Courcel, the new French Ambassador at Berlin, attended a grand ball given on Wednesday evening by the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, and made a very favourable impression on all. The Empress conversed much with him, as also did Princess Bismarck and other Court celebrities.

The remains of Berthold Auerbach were on Wednesday buried with great pomp at his native Nordsteten, in Würtemburg. Many representatives of the learned and literary world from all parts of Germany were present, as well as from all the neighbourhood which the deceased novelist has immortalised. The Grand Duke of Baden was represented by a special envoy, while letters, wreaths, and other marks of sympathy were received from other German Sovereigns. Funeral orations were delivered by Dr. Silberstein, Rabbi, from Möhringen; Professor Wischer, of Stuttgart; Professor Kölstli, of Tübingen, and several others; while wreaths were deposited on behalf of some of the most prominent workers in art, literature, and journalism. The ceremony, in fact, acquired a national significance.

RUSSIA.—The *Golos* of February 8 says:—Another sanguinary collision is reported between Jews, aided by the police, and the population of Goreshta, about fourteen miles from Kishineff. A Jewish maiden of a neighbouring settlement ran away with her Christian lover to get married and be baptised into the orthodox faith in the village above mentioned. The Jews of her native village were roused to anger, and accused her before the authorities of robbery, but on a search being made by the police in the new home where she had taken refuge, nothing was found to substantiate the charge. Thus baffled and enraged, a large number of Israelites, accompanied by some police officials from Kishineff, attempted to take the girl away by force, but the peasants assembled and drove them off with threats of using firearms. Complaint was then made to the Governor, who ordered inquiries, which naturally led to nothing satisfactory for the Jews. The Jewess was, therefore, baptised. During the marriage ceremony a fire broke out in the village, which the peasants attributed to Jewish revenge. Unfortunately, at the same moment some waggons belonging to the Jews were passing through the village, attended by the rural police. The peasants at once fell upon both Jews and police, and beat them to such a degree that fifteen were seriously injured, and had to be taken to the hospital.

PRUSSIA.—The Prussian Chamber resumed its sittings on Tuesday with the second reading of the Budget, which offered few features of general interest, and the House adjourned till Thursday. The Select Committee sitting on the Ecclesiastical Laws Amendment Bill, which rejected the first clause (restoring the discretionary full powers created by the Law, 1880), has now approved, with slight modification, and by the same majority as before—namely, 11 to 10—the so-called Bishops' Paragraph, which should now read:—"If the King has pardoned a Bishop dismissed from his office on the ground of the Law of May 12, 1873, the latter shall not require renewed recognition by the State as Bishop of his diocese." The majority which carried this clause—which was rejected, it may be remembered, in 1880—consisted of the Conservatives, Clericals, and Poles, as opposed to the Free Conservatives and United Liberals. The fact, says the *Times* correspondent, is significant as proving the growth of a decided spirit of compromise among the fractions, but still it cannot be accepted as a certain indication of the final result.

EGYPT.—The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing on Wednesday, says:—

An excellent impression has been produced by the Note which Prince Bismarck received yesterday from M. de Courcel, and the same will be the case with the English Note which Lord Ampthill is daily expected to present. The French Note suggests that the Powers shall treat the Egyptian question as they did the Montenegrin and Greek frontier difficulties, by trying to arrive at a common understanding. A Conference is not spoken of, if I am rightly informed, the condition of Egypt not appearing to require the immediate intervention of Europe. It is considered a wise and important move of M. de Freycinet thus to exhibit in a marked manner the contrast between his foreign policy and that of his predecessor. M. Gambetta, it is said, wished the ardent patriots in France to believe that he was on the point of maintaining French ascendency and honour by despatching troops to Egypt, when he fell and was replaced by a pusillanimous Ministry. M. de Freycinet accepts the gauntlet, and frankly proclaims the *entente Européenne* to be his object, by which he secures the confidence of Germany and Austria and the energetic support of pacific Frenchmen.

Convocation.

PROVINCE OF YORK.

The Convocation of the Northern Province was opened in Archbishop Zouche's Chapel, York Minster, on Tuesday morning. The Bishops and clergy, after receiving the Holy Communion, met together under the presidency of the Lord Archbishop of York. The other members of the Upper House present were the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Bishop of Manchester, and the Bishop of Liverpool.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

THE REV. S. F. GREEN'S IMPRISONMENT.

His Grace the PRESIDENT said that the first item on the paper was "Communications from the President," and that morning he had to point out that they had a little deviated, in more than one point, from the usual rules of the order of the House. The report on the relations of Church and State, from an influential committee, had been sent to him before the usual time. That was not the proper course to adopt. The House itself was first entitled to the report, and the House alone could say what ought to be done with it. The same remark applied to the *gravamen* of the Prolocutor, which appeared at the end of the notice paper, to the following effect, and to the adjoining *reformandum*:—

Gravamen by the Prolocutor: That the continued imprisonment of a clergyman of this province for not acknowledging the spiritual authority of a Court which is now under consideration by a Royal Commission is a perplexity and scandal to this House and the Church at large.

Reformandum: That the Lower House humbly requests the Upper House to unite in an address to Her Majesty for the release of the Rev. S. F. Green.

In the meantime that *gravamen* had acquired a great many signatures of adherents, and before the House had met to discuss it. That was not in accordance with the standing orders, which required that a *gravamen* should be discussed in the Lower House and brought up to the Upper House as an *articulus cleri*. He also desired to make a few remarks as regarded the sitting together of the two Houses. It was a great mistake, if any one believed it, that the Lower House parted with anything by sitting in common with the Upper House. (Hear, hear.) For this reason, that the Lower House had no proper mode of action except through its *gravamina* and *reformanda*, and all that the Lower House was by its constitution competent to do was to present them to the Upper House. That was the ancient position of matters, but early in his time, as no doubt many of them were aware, he, in concert with the late Prolocutor, who greatly exerted himself in that respect, procured the sitting of the two Houses together. Everyone was at liberty to form his own opinion as to the merits of that arrangement; but it was evident that the Lower House was the gainer in the matter, because it was a partaker in the resolutions broached in the Upper House, and it had the advantage, which was a great one, and must be appreciated by those who had any experience of the old system, that the sentiments of the Upper House were known forthwith and without difficulty; whereas in the early days he remembered three or four Bishops used to sit in the Upper House, engaged in profitable intercourse; but it was on record in the annals of Convocation that they used to wait for a *gravamen* and then discuss what they should do with it. He was now told it was intended to move that the Lower House should immediately withdraw to discuss its *gravamen*. It was within its power to withdraw, but it was not in their power to come back. (Laughter.) That might involve the Upper House sitting there with perhaps little or nothing to do, and waiting for the determination of the Lower House. At the end of the last sittings of Convocation a resolution was moved by the Dean of York which it was not competent for the Lower House to carry, as it went so far as to set forth to the Bishops what they should do in regard to the observance of certain points of ritual. However, the Upper House did not interfere, and they only pointed out that the resolution which threw the whole blame of the prosecutions on the Bishops in the dioceses in which they happened to arise, was a little one-sided. (Hear, hear.) The good sense of the Lower House, represented by a majority of one, got rid of that resolution, and they escaped from inconvenience by placing it the last, when the Bishops were ready to separate. He was now told that it was the intention to take away the Lower House from the present sitting and spend some time elsewhere in discussing the *gravamen*. He did not think that that was a very convenient plan to adopt, but it was in the power of the Lower House to vote it if it chose.

The Very Rev. the PROLOCUTOR said he understood that the *gravamen* required no notice whatever. It was quite competent for any member of the Lower House to present a *gravamen*, on condition that he signed it with his own name only. In obtaining names to the *gravamen* he had been guilty of an irregularity, but that had been purely from ignorance of precedents. He should like to know whether his Grace would allow him to read it in the House, not in the shape in which it appeared on the notice paper, but as he had since drawn it up.

The PRESIDENT gave permission, remarking that the reason why he did so without asking leave of the House was, that he regarded it as a new notice, and the other as a surplusage.

The PROLOCUTOR said that the *gravamen* which he wished to present now in his own name was as follows:—

That the continued imprisonment of the Rev. S. F. Green, a clergyman of this province, is a perplexity and scandal to me and to the Church at large.

The Dean of YORK moved, in accordance with the standing orders:—

That the Lower House do now discuss the *gravamen* with the view to its adoption.

He agreed with the convenience of the two Houses discussing matters together; but there were exceptions to that rule. He believed it was the wish of a large number of the Lower House to discuss the question, and that it would be very difficult to do so in the presence of the Upper House.

The Archdeacon of CHESTER presented a *gravamen* expressing disapproval of the Bill for the legalistaion of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and a *reformandum* on the same subject.

The Archdeacon of MACCLESFIELD (Bishop Kelly) moved that the *gravamen* and *reformandum* be considered in the Lower House.

The PROLOCUTOR then put the question whether the Lower House should discuss his *gravamen* in order that it might be presented to the Upper House as an *articulus cleri*.

The motion was carried by a majority of 30 to 26.

The PROLOCUTOR then moved "That the Lower House do now retire."

The proposition was lost by a majority of 30 to 20, and the consideration of the second *gravamen* was also postponed.

The PROLOCUTOR hoped the President would tell the members of the Lower House that they might meet in the afternoon, because if the matter were put off until the end it would be of no use whatever. He earnestly entreated the President not to throw it overboard to the end of the Synod.

The PRESIDENT said that the Lower House had the power to do what it liked. It was very undesirable to have that kind of discussion. He did not see any objection to the proposal made by the Prolocutor. What the Bishops did object to was, that the Lower House should withdraw and return when they liked, expecting to find the Bishops still sitting. That was human nature, applicable to Bishops as well as to other people. In accordance with the wish of the Prolocutor, the House would adjourn at half-past one, and the Lower House could sit at half-past two. There would be found on the paper a notice of motion of his bearing not indirectly on that *gravamen*. The reason he had put it on the paper was simply this: He wished to explain to the House how the whole matter stood in its legal aspects, and he thought it would have been better for the Lower House to have heard that statement. It seemed to be the wish of the Lower House that they should not hear it, and he was perfectly willing that they should not.

The matter then dropped.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION AND THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR. GREEN.

The Dean of DURHAM said he had to present a petition on the part of the English Church Union, which expressed the regret of the union—which he believed was shared by most persons—that a clergyman of the name of S. F. Green should now be in imprisonment, and on that ground the union also expressed regret at what was called the injustice which he had suffered, because he believed that a large majority of the clergy and some of the highest dignitaries of the Church of England did not conform to the ruling of the Privy Council, and were not threatened with hostile proceedings on account of it. The petition also expressed the regret of the English Church Union at the proceedings, which caused scandal, and seriously endangered the existing relations of Church and State. The petition was signed by the president of the union, and he (the Dean) himself endorsed it.

The PRESIDENT asked what was the prayer of the petition?

The Dean of DURHAM said that the petitioners humbly prayed the House to see what steps could be taken to obviate the mischievous effects of the Public Worship Regulation Act, the passing of which had given so great an impetus to the unhappy prosecutions which at present vexed and harassed the Church. (Hear, hear.)

PROPOSED CONTINENTAL EPISCOPACY.

The PRESIDENT said that he had received a number of petitions on the subject of the provisions of the Episcopal superintendence of English congregations on the Continent of Europe not under the supervision of the Bishop of Gibraltar. He held four petitions in his hand, and had received several others which he had not been able to present that day.

THE RELATIONS OF CHURCH AND STATE.

The PROLOCUTOR said that on the part of the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, the convener of the Committee on Church and State, he had to ask that the Committee which had joined with a similar Committee of the Province of Canterbury should be prolonged. The report had been printed and had been distributed with the other papers. He had to present that report to the House. He wished to take that opportunity of recalling to their recollection one who had been taken from them—the Hon. Canon Howard, who had been a member of the Committee. They were all familiar with the deceased—his attention to his duties, his kindness, and his other good qualities—while he was a member of the House. He thought they would greatly miss him in the discussion of matters relating to Church and State. He had to ask that the name of the Rev. Canon Trevor should be added as a member of the Committee.

The Dean of CHESTER asked was it the case that after the Committee was appointed and the Synod had been dispersed, another member was added to it; and if so, was that in harmony with their standing orders? Secondly, if it was not the case that a new member was added to the Committee, did a member of the Lower House who was not a member of the Committee take part in the proceedings and join actively in the debates? It might be that the Committee had power to invite other members of the Lower House to join in the discussion. (The PRESIDENT: No.) It seemed to him to be a dangerous principle, and if it was in harmony with their constitution, he should ask leave to have it altered.

The PROLOCUTOR said that his answer to the first question was "No." He asked the President's leave to add Canon Trevor's name, but he was told that it could not be done. Canon Trevor's name was not added, but as his knowledge on the subject was very great, he was invited to come and sit with them. He had never voted at all, but he had given the Committee some very important information.

The PRESIDENT said that no doubt the Prolocutor had acted in perfect good faith, but he would ask the House to bear in mind that the position and dignity of that body could best be supported by an exact adherence to its rules. Had Canon Trevor been a member of the House at the time when the Committee was struck, in all probability he would have been put upon it.

The following is the report of the Committee:—

Your Committee having been appointed to consider the constitutional relations between the authorities ecclesiastical and civil in this Church and realm, and the best methods whereby common action may be taken by them in matters affecting the Church, have, in conference with a similar committee of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, agreed to the following resolutions, which they have now the honour to submit as their report, viz.:—

I. That no settlement of ecclesiastical judicature will be satisfactory which does not proceed upon the principle that the ancient canonical courts be preserved, subject to such amendments as may be deemed necessary, and shall receive synodical approval.

II. That all ecclesiastical judges be, as far as possible, canonically qualified and commissioned.

III. That the Archdeacon's Court be retained, and strengthened if necessary.

IV. That all questions relating to doctrine, ritual, and discipline, except such as come under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon, be referred, in the first instance, to the Bishop, who may stay all proceedings, or hear the cause either *in camera* or in his court as he may determine.

V. That the ancient Provincial Courts of Canterbury and York be retained with their separate jurisdictions.

VI. That in accordance with the constitution of this Church and realm, the right of appeal for the maintenance of justice in all ecclesiastical causes lies to the Crown.

VII. That in cases of appeal to the Crown for the maintenance of justice in questions involving doctrine or ritual, the judgment of the spiritualty shall be required on the precise points of doctrine or ritual which are involved, and that such judgment of the spiritualty be made public.

VIII. That for the purpose of the seventh resolution the term "Spirituality" be taken to mean the Upper Houses of the Convocations, assisted, if they think fit, by learned divines of the Church of England.

IX. That when those who are appointed to hear the appeal are not unanimous they shall give their opinions *seriatim*.

X. That, when a clerk has been acquitted, no appeal be allowed.

XI. That when on appeal to the Crown the judgment of the Church Court is to be varied, the cause should be remitted to the court the judgment of which is appealed against, in order that justice may be done therein according to the order of the Crown.

XII. That, in accordance with Canon 122, whensoever in any cause the sentence is of a spiritual character, such as exclusion from the Church, excommunication, or degradation, or of a mixed character, such as suspension *ab officio et beneficio*, or deprivation, the sentence be pronounced by the Archbishop or the Bishop himself in open court.

XIII. That it is desirable that, in addition to any statutory enactments which may be recommended Her Majesty be requested to grant to the clergy in their Convocations her Royal assent and license to enact such canons as may be found necessary.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
Geo. Hans Hamilton, Chairman.

The President said he did not think he ought to let the matter pass over without saying a word upon it. The Royal Commission on the Ecclesiastical Courts was sitting, and it would be a great convenience to the Commissioners, of whom he was one, and to the Church and clergy, that there should be some discussion on the report. On the motion that the report be received they might have a general discussion on the subject of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

The names of the Dean of Ripon and of the Archdeacons of Warrington and the East Riding were afterwards added to the committee.

The Extension of the Diaconate.

The Rev. Canon Jackson (Leeds) said that he had the honour to present the report on the extension of the diaconate on which the Committee had agreed; but he had also to say that the Committee most respectfully suggested that the report, being on such an important subject, and being, under the circumstances, of a very important character, should be allowed to stand over for discussion until the next sitting of Convocation, and that in the meanwhile copies of the report should be forwarded to all the members of Convocation.

The suggestion was agreed to.

The Management of Queen's Anne's Bounty.

The Rev. Canon Edward Carr (Carlisle) proposed:—

That his Grace the President be prayed to direct the appointment of a committee to consider and report upon the constitution and management of Queen Anne's Bounty.

He moved the resolution in order to advocate the claims of the poorer clergy. Queen Anne's Bounty was formed by the cession of first fruits and tenths by Queen Anne, towards the maintenance and the increase of the stipends of the poorer clergy. The fund arising from this source was to be distributed in augmentation to livings not exceeding £200 per annum. The income arising from those first fruits and tenths was £15,000 or £16,000 a year. Out of that income was paid for management about £7,000 or £8,000 a year. That seemed an enormous sum to be paid for office expenses out of such an income. (Hear, hear.) As showing the large number of necessitous clergy, he mentioned that in the last financial year 535 applications were received at the office for grants. Of these 411 received pecuniary grants, 21 were assisted with clothing only, and the remainder were for various reasons declined. If it could be shown that there was any important sum of money, he did not like to say wasted, by the operation of the Bounty, a case would be made out justifying any legitimate effort to remove or ameliorate such a state of things. One thing he complained of was, that the fund arising from first fruits and tenths had all the expenses of management thrown upon it arising from contributions not only to livings under £200, but to livings above that amount. He should like also to know how it was that, though the expenses of dealing with this £15,000 or £16,000 a year amounted to £7,000 or £8,000, the governors of the Bounty had an accumulated fund of £20,000 or £25,000. The management was by a board of governors numbering over 600. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners managed their affairs with a committee of about fifty. He suggested that by a transfer of the work from the Queen Anne's Bounty Office to the office of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners a great saving for the poor clergy would be accomplished. (Hear, hear.) The Ecclesiastical Commissioners were all Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty; the work done by them was very similar, and it seemed to him, therefore, that an amalgamation of the two bodies might very easily be effected with a great saving to the fund. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Canon Long (Durham), in seconding the motion, said that something ought to be done, and such a committee as was proposed might bring out information which might at all events quiet the minds of their poorer brethren, who had the feeling that they were being very unjustly dealt with by those who managed this fund. He could not but think that the statement that the cost of managing a fund of £15,000 was over £7,000 was capable of some explanation, and that if the Committee only brought out such explanation it would do good. (Hear, hear.) They should remember that the board had other interests to deal with than the augmentation of livings under £200. For instance, it had dilapidations to deal with, and a large staff of clerks must be necessary in connection with that work, and it might be that this cost was included in the cost of management of the Bounty.

The Bishop of Carlisle did not oppose the resolution, but he thought it very desirable that a statement should be made by some person who was one of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, and who to the best of his ability went to the meetings whenever he could. (Hear, hear.) The seconder had said that whatever were the merits of the case, if there were a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the poorer clergy it was very desirable to allay that feeling; and if a committee, by the information it obtained, could do this it would certainly do a very good work. It was true that the original intention of the Bounty was to deal in a charitable manner with the firstfruits and tenths given over by Queen Anne to the poorer clergy. That was an important part of the business still; but besides that portion of the business, there were also other sources of income which sometimes came in. For instance there was occasionally a handsome legacy or a large gift of money which the poorer clergy had the benefit of. Besides this, any profits which arose from the business carried on by Queen Anne's Bounty also went to the fund for the relief of the poorer clergy. When therefore it was stated that the legitimate income of the Bounty was £15,000 and the cost of management £7,000, they had a statement which was very appalling, but which happily was a misleading one, because the whole income of the Bounty being dealt with by the management the £7,000 spoken of was the entire cost of management; but that management, as he understood it, was not the management simply of the eleemosynary part of the business, but the management of the whole of the business, a great portion of which was a self-paying business. One of the charges brought against the Governors was that they lent their money upon a too high rate of interest, and did not give the clergy the full benefit they might by lending at the lowest rate of interest possible. One of the answers to this allegation was, that if any profit arose from these transactions it went to the poorer clergy. Then the Bounty had the power of lending money to the clergy for building their houses, and also by lending money at its discretion for dilapidations. And really this was the most onerous part of the whole business which the Bounty had to discharge. It was a comparatively easy thing when they knew what was their surplus to look at the applications, decide as to the most pressing, and distribute their funds accordingly. But the loan business was a different matter, and very much more onerous. The Governors had the powers to lend for thirty years, taking a mortgage upon the living. That power of lending had been made the ground of a charge against the Governors because they made their loans at four per cent., and that when money belonging to the clergy was in the hands of the Bounty they allowed no more than 3½ or 3¾ per cent. interest, thus lending at one rate of interest and paying at another rate. The answer to this was that they could not afford, as a strict matter of business, to lend at the same rate as they paid. The Society said that they could not manage to carry on this business in a safe and satisfactory manner—dealing with money not their own, dealing with trust money, and therefore having to deal with it in a strictly business way, they could not afford to lend their money at a lower rate than 4 per cent. Another answer to this objection was, if a clergyman could borrow more cheaply in the open market he was perfectly at liberty to take advantage of that method. Then there was another branch of business which was extremely laborious, and he was bound to say it was very carefully done, and for the doing of which the clergy had great reason to be thankful to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. A great number of the poor livings had estates that had been bought in years past through the agency of the Bounty; and though it might not be strictly necessary in point of law that the management of those estates should be left to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, there had been an honourable understanding between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Governors that when an estate was what was called a Bounty estate the Commissioners would not interfere, but leave its management in the hands of the Governors. Cases for sale thus came before the governors which had to be discussed in all their bearings, and the best possible price was obtained for those estates. A large portion of the time of the board was taken up in this kind of business. Next, it had been said that the management of Queen Anne's Bounty was entrusted to over 600 governors. Probably it might, and such a body would be a very unmanageable one. But in many of our old institutions there was the nominal position and the working position in which they stood, and the two things were very different. The fact was that the persons attending the meetings week after week and month after month were just the same, and he thought it ought to be known by all the clergy how well and earnestly their interests were looked after by those gentlemen who attended the board meetings. (Hear, hear. It had been stated, and truly stated, that the expenses of management were heavy, but the real and most important management of all was the unpaid management. Month after month they found the same persons at the meetings. Usually they comprised three or four Peers, one or two members of the House of Commons, two or three Bishops, two or three Aldermen of the City of London, and two or three distinguished lawyers. That was the practical constitution of Queen Anne's Bounty Board, and he believed they could hardly have a better constituted board for the transaction of business. And their work was altogether unpaid. The suggestion of the mover of the motion was, that the work of the governors and that of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners should be amalgamated. Conceivably it might be a wise thing, but as a matter of opinion he did not think it would be a wise proceeding, nor did he think that the clergy would get rid of their difficulty by that shifting of the business. If Queen Anne's Bounty Board was a well-abused body, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were equally so, and as one who attended the meetings of both bodies he was deliberately of opinion that the work was more carefully gone into by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty than by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and he would not recommend them to press that change. (Applause). The Ecclesiastical Commissioners were overwhelmed with work, and the governors of the Bounty had also a great deal to do. He believed a transference of the work as suggested would make things worse.

The President thought it questionable as to whether it was desirable to have two bodies to do exactly the same thing for exactly the same persons. He gladly concurred in the granting of a committee, because the clergy would then get to know the true state of things.

The motion was unanimously agreed to. The two Houses then adjourned for luncheon.

After luncheon the Lower House sat alone, the Prolocutor (the Dean of Manchester) presiding.

The Imprisonment of the Rev. S. F. Green.

The Prolocutor proceeded to explain why he had presented a *gravamen* respecting the continued imprisonment of the Rev. S. F. Green. It was to him a perplexity that a clergyman of unblemished character, hard-working amongst his people, and who had got together an excellent congregation, should be imprisoned for a matter of conscience. Mr. Green might have transgressed against what some people might consider a strict adherence to the laws of the Church, but his contention was that there was not a clergyman present who strictly fulfilled all legal requirements. And it was a scandal and a stumbling-block as well. He did not see how they could ask any man of earnest and strong views to take a lead in the evangelisation of the black places in our large towns unless they encouraged him. But instead of encouraging they were sending men to gaol. It was a hindrance to the progress of Christ's work that they should have a priest like Mr. Green condemned to gaol like a felon on trumpery and foolish grounds.

The Dean of York proposed—

That the *gravamen* be made *articulus cleri*:—That the continued imprisonment of the Rev. S. F. Green, a clergyman of this Province, is a perplexity and scandal to this House and to the Church at large.

He proposed the motion with an honest and conscientious intention to promote peace. He regarded what the Archbishop said, that it was a one-sided resolution, the tendency of which was to put all the blame of the ecclesiastical prosecution on the Bishops. He could only say that it was an entire misunderstanding, that nothing of the sort was intended. The object was simply to pray the Bishops to discourage those prosecutions, and he hoped one result would have been that they would have had in return some kindly words from the Bishops to the clergy, which would have done much to spread good feeling amongst them. As regarded the resolution, he thought there would not be one who could stand up there and say that the fact of a brother clergyman being in prison, and having been there for nearly twelve months, was not a scandal to the Church, and he did not think anyone could get up and say it was not a perplexity also. Mr. Green was not the only man amongst them who had disobeyed the law. Men on all sides protested that they were obeying the law, but he was not certain that they did so, and he was sure he did not himself obey the law. And as the law was now constructed no man could accurately obey the law of the Church, neither was it desirable that he should do so, whether in matters of ritual or ministerial law. It might be asked: Why did not Mr. Green do that which he was required to do, and he would at once be released? He had told them why. As an honest man he could not do it. To detain a man in prison, and tell him that he must either do something that his conscience forbade him to do or stay there until the penalty inflicted should have worked a change in his mind, was an act of cruelty, an act of persecution, and a downright disgrace to the day and the country in which we live. He wished there was less readiness to resort to the law to maintain the interests of the Church, and that men of all parties would endeavour to keep back those tendencies to appeal to the law, whether promoters of the Church Association on the one hand, or the promoters of the Church Union on the other. (Hear, hear.) What was wanted was an increased feeling of loyalty to the Bishops. (Hear, hear.) They had a hard and difficult part to play, and this feeling of loyalty was one which all schools in the Church wanted to encourage. (Hear, hear.) The vitality of the Church did not depend on those prosecutions, but upon a comprehensiveness which would embrace High Church, Broad Church, and Low Church; upon a spirit of mutual toleration one of another, and upon its spiritual life.

The Rev. Canon Owen seconded the motion. The motion did not appertain to Mr. Green only, whom he did not know, but it affected the whole Church. He was one of those who thought that a rigid groove of uniformity was simply an impossibility, but if it could be gained it would amount to deadness. He regretted these repeated prosecutions, because they appeared to have partaken somewhat of the nature of persecutions, and he did not think it was well for the nation, for the Church, and for individuals that there should be a transversion of the old saying, "See how these Christians love one another." He supported the motion on the ground of policy and of justice and right. He could not help thinking that by these prosecutions piety and religion suffered, and infidelity, as represented by the scoffers, was assisted. He himself strongly advocated obedience to the law, but there were many who doubted whether in Mr. Green's case there had not been a failure of justice. (Hear, hear.) There were many who were uncertain whether in Mr. Green's case there had been a judgment according to the law, many holding the firm conviction that it was not. It was said that Mr. Green was a prisoner according to his own will, that the door of the prison was locked on the inside, and that he had the key in his own hand. (Hear, hear.) How was it if there was with Mr. Green a deep, conscientious, heartfelt conviction. They could not then expect him to do that which would be against his inner conscientiousness and principles. There ought to be a stop put to the present state of things, which were a disturbance to the public mind and the public peace.

The Ven. Archdeacon Blunt (East Riding) said it appeared to him that the *gravamen* was one in which they could all agree, whatever their opinions might be. They must all feel that it was a perplexity and a scandal—(hear, hear)—but he should feel some difficulty in voting for the *gravamen* unless he was able to express on that occasion the grave reasons he had for differing from the arguments with which it had been presented by the mover. He ventured to differ from the arguments of the Prolocutor. The cases were not directly parallel between Mr. Green and those members of that House who might have disobeyed the law. In the one case it had formed the subject of a judicial trial, while in the other case it had not. Let them remember that Mr. Green was suffering imprisonment for contumacy. He regretted to hear the Dean of York say that none of the clergy obeyed the law, and that he did not think they ought to obey the law. (Hear, hear.)

The Dean of York said he did not say they ought not.

Archdeacon Blunt said he must have misunderstood the Dean. He should like to know whether it was intended to propose a *reformandum* as an *articulus cleri*.

The Prolocutor said that as he had been challenged he might say he believed a *reformandum* would be proposed, and he thought they might pass the *gravamen*, which they seemed to be agreed upon, and then proceed to discuss the *reformandum*.

Archdeacon Cust (Richmond) said the House would find on reference to the notice paper that the Archbishop was about to introduce a motion regretting the imprisonment of Mr. Green and the difficulties which had been found in respect of his release from prison, and also regretting that he had not found himself able to submit to the direction of his Bishop in the matter in dispute. He (the Archdeacon) agreed with the Archbishop that Mr. Green had not been able to satisfy the court so that he might be dismissed. He could not agree with the *gravamen*, which seemed completely to divest him of all blame. (Hear, hear.) He believed that Mr. Green was entitled to the description of the Prolocutor as an excellent, an earnest, and devoted man; but he thought that Mr. Green was mistaken, and it might be that in consequence of that mistake he was incarcerated. He would scarcely say that it was a perplexity and scandal to all of them; at the same time he should not object to the wording of the *gravamen* provided it included the words of the Archbishop's resolution.

The Rev. Canon Eden said that everyone in that room would be glad to see Mr. Green out of prison if it could be done in some way of which they could approve; but there were in that room two parties, one who said, "Oh, yes, by all means let him go out, and let us do away with any reproach at all upon him." Then there was another section, who said, "By all means let him go out if it can be done, but his liberation must be attended with circumstances which say he has been to blame." He thought they would not move freely until they had thrown away both elements and met on a common ground, on which they could agree in expressing their distress at the prolonged imprisonment of Mr. Green. He regarded the present state of the question as being nearer solution. There appeared to be a doubt as to whether Mr. Green had been properly convicted, and if that were so he was entitled to the benefit of that doubt. Had any one the courage to say to Mr. Green, "You could come out if you would; but if you do you will be in a position in which you cannot face society for the the rest of your life as a man of honour?" (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Canon Simmons (East Riding) thought the advice given by the Archdeacon of the East Riding was such as they might all well follow. He thought it a very grave thing that a clergyman, for a spiritual offence, should be liable to imprisonment.

Archdeacon Anson (Manchester) said the arguments he had heard used by the supporters of the motion had produced difficulties in his mind. Still, he did feel so strongly that the continued imprisonment of a clergyman was a perplexity and a scandal, that he was disposed to vote for the *gravamen*. As to what had been said of the character of Mr. Green's work in the parish, he wished to add that there was an earnest work already existing in the parish when Mr. Green went to it, and a large congregation. He yielded to no one present in his desire to see Mr. Green released from prison, and if there was one man who desired it is more than himself it was the Bishop of Manchester. (Applause.)

Archdeacon Prest (Durham) was one who believed that the imprisonment of Mr. Green was not only wrong, but was also impolitic. Until that took place he was a member of the Church Association. He then withdrew from its councils when he could not prevent it. But this *gravamen* was such that those who did not believe that Mr. Green was right could not adopt. He thought such words as "scandal" and "perplexity" should not be used. He thought it would be better to say that the continued imprisonment was a "distress" to them, and suggested this alteration if it could be made. Unless this alteration were made some of them who regretted the imprisonment would be compelled to vote against the motion.

The Prolocutor ruled that under the standing orders the alteration suggested could not be accepted.

The Dean of Ripon supported the sentiments expressed by the Archdeacon of Richmond, because he felt there was a complete misunderstanding respecting the position of Mr. Green. If Mr. Green would submit himself to his Bishop he could come out of prison at once. There would be no offence against his conscience to do so, and it was a mistake to say that Mr. Green was detained as a matter of conscience. If Mr. Green had had that respect for his Bishop which he ought to have had, and had he put the case into his hands, the good Bishop of Manchester would have accomplished the purpose which they all so much desired. He yielded to no man in his sympathy for Mr. Green, but if he felt that a man had broken the law and was put into prison for contumacy and contempt, there was not a lawyer who could convince him that it was proper to apply to the Queen for his release. The government of the country could not be conducted on those terms. He was in prison because he refused to submit to the authority of the court, and until he submitted he must remain in prison. (Hear, hear.)

The Dean of Chester could not vote for the resolution, because it simply enunciated a truism. This imprisonment had caused pain and given a shock in every part of the country. The only gainer had been infidelity.

The question was then put to the vote, when the *gravamen* was adopted by a majority of 38 against 18.

The Dean of Durham moved the adoption of the following *reformandum*:—

That the Lower House therefore humbly requests of the Upper House to take some united action, whether

by way of an address to the Crown or otherwise as they may be advised, which may lead to the removal of this scandal by the release of the Rev. S. F. Green.

He said he desired Mr. Green's release because he thought it would maintain that cause of liberty in public worship and in religious opinion in the Church of England which he believed to be absolutely essential to the continuance of the Church of England, as it was certainly at the root of its creation. There was no man for whom he had greater respect than for the Bishop of Manchester, but he could not think that the Bishop had shown wisdom in dealing with Mr. Green's case.

The Rev. Canon TREVOR seconded the motion. He said the Convocation could go straight to the Crown, and if the Bishops would go to the Queen there was every probability that they would be successful in obtaining the release of Mr. Green. There had not been a single instance in which the desires of Convocation when presented to the Queen had been ignored. Mr. Green was the victim of an unrighteous law. (Cries of "No, no," and "Yes, yes.") Yes; a thousand times yes. He hoped he would have a chance there or elsewhere of proving that there never was a more wicked, mean, unrighteous law passed by the Legislature of this country than the law under which Mr. Green was suffering imprisonment. (Applause.)

The Dean of CHESTER said they now saw where they had landed themselves by their truism. Either they must go to the Bishops, following the advice of Canon Trevor, and make themselves partisans of Mr. Green—("No, no")—or, by adopting the contrary course, make themselves his judges, and inflict a censure upon him. The Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Manchester had throughout expressed their sincere desire to find a method to enable Mr. Green to leave his prison by acting on the instructions in one of the prefaces in the Prayer-Book.

Bishop KELLY (Archdeacon of Macclesfield) said he wished to point out that in the vote he was about to give he did not intend it to be understood that he was a partisan for Mr. Green. If there could be a greater scandal and perplexity than the present it would be that Convocation should meet and discuss Mr. Green's case without doing anything towards his release.

Archdeacon CUST moved as an amendment:—

That the Lower House, while it grieves that the Rev. S. F. Green has not found himself able to accept the counsel of his Bishop, nevertheless it humbly requests the Upper House to take such means as they think most advisable to procure his release.

The Dean of RIPON briefly seconded the amendment.

The Rev. N. D. J. STRATON (vicar of Wakefield), in supporting the amendment, said he earnestly trusted that very soon the law would be altered, and that such cases would not be met by imprisonment. That they should go to the Crown to appeal for the unconditional release of Mr. Green appeared to him to be a course which would not tend to the credit and dignity of the House.

The Rev. Canon CUNDILL (Durham) supported the motion.

The Rev. Canon TRISTRAM opposed the motion, which was supported by Canon HORNBY (Bury), who said that the Bishops had always been afraid of leading public opinion, and had always kept back until they saw which way public opinion was going.

Archdeacon WATKINS (Northumberland) said he objected to both the motion and the amendment. He could not approve of priests being in prison, and he could not approve of the law being broken. Was it not possible for them to carry almost unanimously some amendment which committed them to a censure of neither the Bishop of Manchester nor the Rev. S. F. Green? He would propose the substitution for Archdeacon Cust's amendment of the words, "while it does not feel called upon to commit itself as a House to any expression of opinion on Mr. Green's conduct."

Archdeacon BIRCH seconded the amendment, which was accepted by the Dean of Durham and carried.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The Archdeacon of CHESTER moved the adoption of a *gravamen* and *reformandum* in opposition to the passing of the Bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Bishop KELLY seconded the motion, which was supported by Canon TREVOR and carried unanimously.

The Convocation then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY.

THE CASE OF THE REV. S. F. GREEN.

The Very Rev. the PROLOCUTOR said he had to report that the *gravamen* which was read to the House on the previous day, and which was discussed at the meeting of the Lower House, was adopted by the Lower House by a majority of 38 to 18. A *reformandum* was also carried to this effect:—

That the Lower House, while it does not feel called upon to express as a House any opinion of Mr. Green's conduct, humbly requests the Upper House to take some united action, whether by means of an address to the Crown or otherwise, which they may be advised, which may lead to the removal of this scandal, by the release of the Rev. S. F. Green.

The Lower House also adopted a *gravamen* and *reformandum* on the subject of the legalisation of marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

His Grace the PRESIDENT said he thought it would be convenient that he should, on behalf of himself and of the other Bishops, make some answer to the *gravamen* at once. Of course his answer would not be so comprehensive as his speech would have been, which speech he did not think it his duty to make after the course taken yesterday by the Lower House, which had the effect of preventing their Bishops discussing with them certain aspects of the question, and it was not his intention to persevere with his motion on the subject. He thought that the Convocation had given enough time to this very important matter, considering the many things that pressed upon their attention. That was the mind of his right rev. brother the Bishop of Carlisle, and his motion too would not be proceeded with. The effect of his (the President's) motion would have been to put the House in possession of some things as a preliminary to the debate which would have taken place. The effect of the Bishop of Carlisle's motion would have been to show their animus against imprisoning clerks. There was not a single Bishop amongst them who did not very much deplore the imprisonment of Mr. Green or any other clergyman for matters of opinion, and there was not one of their Lordships who would not gladly co-operate with him, if he asked for that co-operation, in any reasonable endeavour to procure Mr. Green's release. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) With regard to his motion, he thought it would have been convenient to have taken it before the retirement of the Lower House, and he would have the Lower House consider whether, having regard to the value of the time of those Bishops who came from a distance to be amongst them, some understanding might not be arrived at in the future to take all questions that concerned one House either at the close of the meeting, or, if they preferred it, at an evening sitting, or in some other way, so that they might be employed from day to day, and hour to hour so long as they sat together. (Hear, hear.) He did not deplore not having had to make that speech, for he remembered a very curious question which he had often heard discussed in Parliament—whether any speech in fact did influence any vote whatever. (Laughter.) The Prolocutor kindly informed him on the previous morning that he had thirty-six promises of members in favour of the *gravamen*, and with that knowledge in his mind it would have been disappointing to find that, after an elaborate speech from him, the number had proved to be thirty-eight. (Renewed laughter.) He now came to the *reformandum*, which virtually asked the Bishops to do what they could to get Mr. Green into a different position, and there he confessed he was not able to offer the Lower House the comfort he desired. Let him briefly explain how they stood. Mr. Green was now confined in prison, not by way of a punishment under that name, although it was no doubt very penal to him, but for contempt of court. (Hear, hear.) That contempt he could purge to-morrow, and he could then come out. The view which lawyers took was that Mr. Green was kept in prison by himself, because he could come out if he so desired. He (the President) was quite aware what might be said against that, and he saw from the newspapers that it was dwelt upon in the Lower House on the previous day—that Mr. Green could not possibly eat his own words and retrace his steps, because having once nailed his colours to the mast it would not become him to take another course; but he did not think that they who preached repentance and change of mind as clergymen from their pulpits were called upon to tell a clergyman who happened to be in prison that because he happened to be there he was shut out from that repentance or change of mind. (Cries of "Oh, oh.") What he asked Mr. Green to do was that he should submit himself to the direction of his Bishop—(hear, hear)—and what he contended was that that was a step which a clergyman who had made a solemn oath to obey the monitions of his Bishop might very consistently take. He did not say that Mr. Green was wrong in persevering in the line which he had taken, but he would not scruple to say to him that he might very well change his mind in the matter. That was really the only feasible mode apparent to him for Mr. Green to extricate himself from the position in which he found himself. Mr. Green had refused, and once more he did not blame him; but he did blame those who gave him the counsel to shut himself out from reconsidering his position, and because of the position of the whole Church, to which the proceedings had been a great scandal, an injury, and a shame. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) The mode in which he proposed to procure Mr. Green's release had been a little misunderstood. Mr. Green had said, "Having said I am not to blame, I cannot change my plan, after a year and a half's suffering and trouble, and say I will submit to the Court." Then he (the President) asked him, "Will you submit to the Bishop if we can get you a road you can honourably tread with the same result that you might get by treading your road? Will you enable me, in concert with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is at one with me, to go to the prosecutor and say 'We believe there is a real hope of getting to the bottom of the trouble and difficulty that has arisen, and will you give your consent to a release under an order of a judge?'" That was a feasible plan, and he had not changed his opinion about it. He thought it was the best and only plan, and he still entertained that view. If anything were wanted in the way of detail, he might add that he first put his finger into this matter at the request of the President of the English Church Union. The only other way it seemed to the minds of some was that Convocation should interfere. There was a world without which considered itself of great importance, and it would be very desirable that before they committed Convocation to any course they should see how that would be looked upon by the outside world. He held an answer from Sir William Harcourt to a letter he wrote to him, asking him to put at his disposal the advice of the law officers of the Crown on this subject. He had seen that advice. It was a very important one, and, although it was private, he felt himself at liberty to mention that it pointed out that if it was a mere release that was wanted the Courts would be bound to go through the same process as in other cases, and supposing Mr. Green were let out and went to the church and did the same things the result would have been that a fresh significavit would be taken out, and Mr. Green, after a short gleam of liberty, would be incarcerated again. What was wanted was not simply that Mr. Green should be released, but some terms on which he might be not only released but kept free. He was not allowed to read counsel's opinion, but Sir William Harcourt had kindly sent him an extract from a letter which he had sent to some one else, in which he said: "I am to add that, having consulted the law officers of the Crown, Sir William Harcourt is advised by them that the powers of the Crown to discharge persons from custody could not be rightly or even constitutionally exercised in the case of a person imprisoned for contempt of Court, and committed for persistent disobedience to the lawful commands of a competent tribunal." They were not that morning going to discuss whether that was right or wrong. It was part of the advice which the Ministers of the Crown had acted upon, and the Crown was, if he might say so, shut up to that course. They could hardly expect the Crown would act in the matter in a manner which had not been approved by the Ministers of the Crown, nor could they expect Ministers to act in direct contravention to the advice given them by their law officers. (Hear, hear.) He believed there were some persons who supposed that the road to the Throne was still open; that that Convocation had the right to march direct to the foot of the Throne, and could respectfully demand that an unfortunate clergyman should be released from prison. He (the Archbishop) would not be in order in referring to the debate which took place yesterday—(hear, hear)—but he might put the matter hypothetically, and say that if any clergyman versed in Church law supposed that the Convocation of York had the right to go straight to the foot of the Throne and present an address containing its demands, he should be obliged to give that member of Convocation a flat contradiction in both particulars—(hear, hear)—but especially with reference to the first, because it must be within the memory of those who had seen a good deal of the proceedings of that Convocation that there was a discussion some years ago on that very subject—their supposed right to directly address the Crown. On some momentous subject an address was prepared by that Convocation, and also by the Convocation of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by his Convocation, presented their address on the subject to the Queen. The Convocation of York said they would like to go with the Convocation of Canterbury and present their address, but they were informed that they had no right to go. On hearing that statement made, he (the Archbishop) craved further information on the subject, and received a courteous answer, in which it was stated that it was considered desirable not to multiply the number of those who had the right of access to the Sovereign, because that would prove to be inconvenient. A list of the persons and bodies having the right of access to the Sovereign was enclosed with the answer, in the form of a minute governing the matter, from which it appeared that the Convocation of Canterbury had the right to present an address to the Throne, but the Convocation of York had not. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, if any member of that Convocation got upon his feet and said that the Convocation of York had the right of access to the Throne to present an address, he would inform that gentleman that that very question had been fully discussed some time ago, and that then they were told they had not had that right in the past, and could not have it in the future. (Hear, hear.) He remembered what might be called a somewhat analogous case—that of the Irish Church. In that case they went to the foot of the Throne. The Archbishop of Armagh, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, and accompanied by many prelates, was ushered into the presence of the Sovereign. The prayer which was then taken to the foot of the Throne was that the Irish Church should not be disestablished, but he read in the ordinary sources of information that the Irish Church had been disestablished for some years, and he had never heard that their going to the foot of the Throne on that occasion had had any effect upon the proceedings in Parliament which governed that matter. But it was said the Bishops might head a forlorn hope in an attempt to get Mr. Green out of prison, though they knew that the law officers of the Crown had given an adverse opinion of the kind to which he had referred, that the Lord Chancellor had given an adverse opinion, and that Ministers had refused to act after having received that opinion, and they might go to the foot of the Throne and ask for Mr. Green's release. That the Bishops would not do. (Hear, hear.) They were as anxious as anybody possibly could be to embrace any feasible method of securing the end that was desired—namely, the release of Mr. Green; but with the knowledge that the Crown had been advised not to grant it, with the assurance of Sir Wm. Harcourt that it will not grant it, to tell the Bishops that it was part of their duty to go to the Crown and say it was part of the Sovereign's business to release Mr. Green, though her Ministers had not advised her to do so, and to do what the law officers of the Crown thought would be unconstitutional and wrong, would not be seemly conduct on the part of that Convocation. (Hear, hear.) At all events, it appeared to the Bishops that it would be unseemly to do so, and they could not possibly adopt that course of action. (Hear, hear.) Who was responsible for the present state of things? He did not think they need waste much time in blaming one another. Having received the *reformandum* from the Lower House, which deserved their careful attention, and which had received an amount of anxious attention seldom bestowed on any public question, the Bishops honestly told the Lower House that they had come to the end of their suggestions and resources. The methods by which release from prison might be obtained were three. The clerk might purge his contempt. Mr. Green might have taken the suggestion which he (the Archbishop) made, and have seen what came of it, for he thought it would have been attended with success. It was very unfortunate that Mr. Green, instead of answering his letters in the spirit in which they were conceived—(hear, hear)—allowed his temper to run away with him, and treated the letters with harshness and scorn. He (the Archbishop) went into the matter with a very different spirit indeed, and with the utmost anxiety to produce the result which they all desired. The third way was closed to them, for they were told they could not go to the Crown. Notwithstanding what had occurred, the Bishops were anxious to embrace any feasible method of releasing Mr. Green which would be consistent with their duty to the Crown, the Church, and the country. (Applause.)

THE CATHEDRAL COMMISSION.

The Dean of RIPON asked whether the Bishop of Carlisle would give them any information as to the progress of the Cathedral Commission, and whether they might expect any practical result from it.

The Bishop of CARLISLE said that the Cathedral Commissioners sent in their report last Monday week, and he had every reason to believe that it was *publici juris*. The report stated the communications that the commissioners had had with the different Cathedrals, that they had been preparing, with the help of the dean and representative canon, suggestions for new or supplemental statutes for the different Cathedrals, and that steps should be taken for giving legal authority to the suggestions of the commissioners. They proposed that there should be a Cathedral Committee of the Privy Council on the same lines as the University Committee, the Committee to have the power of approving of codes of statutes when laid before it, and that then those codes should have the force of law. It was proposed that that should be a standing body, so that it should be within the power of the dean and chapter of any Cathedral, with the assent of their visitor, to lay any new statute or remission of an old statute for confirmation before that body. The Commissioners suggested that steps be immediately taken for giving legislative force to their proposals. The remainder of the report was taken up in describing in general terms the principles of which the Commissioners had gone, and with stating that in the proposed Bill it would be necessary to introduce further changes—namely, a proposal to relieve the deans and chapters from the very harassing and unintelligible law to which they were at present subject concerning the disposition of their patronage. No doubt the report had been laid on the tables of the Houses of Parliament by this time. What they were waiting for now was to see whether they could get the Bill through Parliament, which was absolutely necessary to give force to their recommendations.

THE CONTUMACIOUS PRISONERS' BILL.

In answer to a question, the PRESIDENT said that he was not present in the House of Lords when this Bill was brought forward, and which would have resulted in the discharge of Mr. Green, but he knew that the Archbishop of Canterbury expressly supported it.

THE RELATIONS OF CHURCH AND STATE.

The PROLOCUTOR submitted the report on the relations of Church and State) on behalf of Archdeacon Hamilton (the chairman), and, in moving that it be received, said he refrained from entering upon the report because it would lead to endless discussion. The resolutions had been arrived at by considerable majorities on very important points. The Committee had sat jointly with a Committee of the Province of Canterbury.

After some conversation it was decided that the report be received, that the discussion of its contents should be postponed, and that the President be empowered to present it to the Commission, of which he is a member.

The Rev. Canon GORE (Macclesfield) moved the following resolution:—

That, with a view to remove abuses now incident to the sale of the right of patronage in the Church, it is expedient—(*a*) That the sale of the next presentation to a benefice be forbidden; (*b*) That an interval of not less than five years intervene between two sales of the same advowson; (*c*) That provision be made to prevent donative benefices from being used to create vacancies in presentative benefices; (*d*) That diocesan boards of patronage be incorporated, with the power of acquiring advowsons, whether by gift or purchase; (*e*) That all deeds affecting the advowson of a benefice be registered publicly in the Diocesan Registry; (*f*) That large additional powers be granted to Bishops to refuse institution to unworthy presentees.

He said that the resolution was not intended to interfere with private patronage, which most of them believed was a very valuable system in the Church. (Hear, hear.) Whereas there were 6,000 or 7,000 livings under private patronage in England, there were not more than 800 or 900 in the province of York, more than 300 of which were under the annual value of £200. In some respects he did not agree with the provisions of the bill of the Hon. E. Stanhope, particularly with regard to the constitution of the Diocesan Board. It would be better for the Church and for the people that the scandal should be abolished, and that the only kind of patronage in which the scandal could occur should be free from that scandal. The question had been discussed at all the diocesan conferences, and resolutions in favour of Mr. Stanhope's Bill had been commonly adopted! It had been discussed at the Church Congress, it had been before the Houses of Parliament, and it had occupied the minds of the people of this country for a long time. Mr. Stanhope had given notice of the introduction of the Patronage Bill. He had the highest authority for saying that that Bill would go on the lines of the first Bill, and not his second. Mr. E. A. Leatham had also given notice of his intention to introduce his Bill on the Law of Simony. He had not the highest authority for saying what would be the lines of that Bill. (Laughter).

The Rev. Canon PRESCOTT (Carlisle) seconded the proposition. He said they could not deal tenderly with that hateful class of people who made a living by trafficking in livings. (Hear, hear.) If they did they would not be true to the Church to which they belonged.

The Dean of CARLISLE thought the scheme proposed was not yet ripe, and that Mr. Stanhope's Bill was very mystic. No thorough ecclesiastical reformer would lift up his voice in favour of anything which meant fresh legislative sanction to the sale of advowsons. (Hear, hear.) The formation of Diocesan Boards was only an indirect remedy, and secured no direct provision for the people in each parish. Any proposal which would deal thoroughly with the question must go nearer to the root of the matter, for which purpose they must have more light from other sources. He earnestly appealed to the right rev. prelates of the Upper House to support the appointment of a committee. He had heard language of professed deference to every conceivable opinion issued by a Bishop. Was that consistent with a proper degree of ecclesiastical independence or with ordinary manhood? (Hear, hear.) He recorded his humble sense of the incalculable benefit which the Church of England owed to the way in which his Grace and their Lordships had handled the matter in the House of Lords; but in spite of that, they were defeated by two forces—the lawyers and the private patrons. He scarcely saw any hope of passing Mr. Stanhope's Bill unless it received the full weight of the support which a more thorough popular opposition to the existing system would give it. He moved as an amendment, that his Grace the President be pleased to appoint a committee to consider the subject and report in the next session.

Canon TRISTRAM believed that in all patronage the question of trusts must precede that of property. He was glad to hear a distinct recognition of the desirability of the abolition of lay patronage, believing that in all questions of patronage, as well as of discipline, the laity had a right to be consulted. (Hear, hear.) It was not fair to assume that lay, any more than clerical or Government patrons, were always influenced by base motives. Patronage as exercised by Bishops and Deans has not been more free from criticism than general lay patronage. He was surprised there was no incorporation of the sale of advowsons, and thought that if a Bill were brought in dealing with the subject, and including a clause to prevent the sale of advowsons to persons at a distance, or who had no connection with the parish, no harm would result. The scandals, which they all

deplored, did not arise from those who were resident in the parish, but from speculators and clerical agents at a distance. (Hear, hear.) Diocesan Boards, according to the statement of the Lay Secretary of a most important Irish Diocesan Board, had not realised the hopes of their promoters. (Hear, hear.) The existing system of patronage had been an unmixed evil, and it had been said that the system of popular election worked much better in America than the English system. (Hear, hear.)

Canon Ainger called on the House not to approve any clause which sanctioned the sale of advowsons. Till the sale of advowsons was put to an end to, the nominal receiver of his hundreds or thousands would have have to be content with a smaller portion. He seconded the proposal for a Select Committee.

The Prolocutor did not think that there was any objection whatever, in the case of the sale of an advowson, that the trustees of charities should dispose of them. In any case, those who took up the question enthusiastically should be very careful what they were about, and should not blame the lawyers. (Hear, hear.)

The President wished the House to remember the position in which the question stood. It had received very unusual attention in recent years. There had been a striking debate in the House of Lords, followed by a motion for a Select Committee, which brought up a most important report. Later on he had moved for the appointment of a Royal Commission, which went further. In the other House of Parliament a Bill was brought in by Mr. Stanhope on the lines of the resolutions before that House. They had had a most excellent speech in defence of the resolutions, and it had been proposed to submit them to a Select Committee of the House. That would be a very easy way of dealing with them, because the House would hear nothing more of the Committee's work till next year, and probably very little then. (Laughter.) A more courageous way of dealing with the question would be for the House to say what it had to say upon the general tenor of the resolutions. The ground of opposition to the proposal that there should be an interval of not less than five years between two sales of the same advowson was weak. They must discuss practically not what they would like, were they settling the advowson of a new church for the first time. They did not limit the sale of advowsons by prohibiting a double sale; they only said there was no trustee's right of reselling advowsons. The state of things was a scandal to the Church. It was a scandal to the Church to which they belonged that a man thoroughly unfitted for a parish should be placed there by the act of his father or someone buying the advowson. Such a man sometimes went to be curate of a parish before he was admitted, and during that time did his best to prove that he was quite unfit for the charge. (Laughter.) Practically, however, there was no power of preventing his admission. Of course there was in the case of every man about to be admitted to Holy Orders an examination before the Archbishop. He would give the House one instance of the anomaly, though in that particular case he was able to prevent the admission of the candidate. A certain gentleman bought a living which he was desirous of presenting to his nephew. In sending the papers setting forth the particulars of the presentation, the nephew, who was a candidate for admission, included a letter addressed by the uncle to the nephew, which disclosed the details of the whole simoniacal transaction. (Laughter.) In that letter the uncle said to the nephew: "Make haste and get the Archbishop to institute you before all the details of the transaction come out;" and then, alluding to the party from whom he had bought the advowson, said: "He wanted me to pay him without a receipt. I have now got a receipt so you may go to the Archbishop." (Much laughter.) After the sale had taken place, he (the President) saw the uncle, and asked for information with regard to the private letter, and received replies which were anything but satisfactory. After a long silence the parties wrote demanding the institution of the candidate, upon which he laid the matter before the Attorney-General, and the result was that he declined altogether to institute the candidate. Of course, it was not every candidate who put a letter from his uncle, or someone else who was giving him the living, on the fore-front of the transaction. Many such abuses existed. The resolutions were very practical as regarded the present state of things. The prevention of the sale of the next presentation to a benefice was as much as they could hope to obtain on that head. It might be said that the forbidding of a double sale was an interference with the rights of property. It must be remembered, however, that that property was of a peculiar character, and all those regulations justified the course proposed, because they went in the direction of a re-establishment of principles too much neglected—they showed that there was a desire to see that the principles with which it was coupled should be fully observed. Some patrons like to possess donatives, but they were sometimes used for corrupt purposes, such as the passing of a man into a living without the Bishop knowing anything. Though he did not feel quite sure as to the benefits to be derived from the provision "that Diocesan Boards of patronage be incorporated with the power of acquiring advowsons," he would not separate that requirement from the remainder, but would vote for the whole of the resolutions. (Applause.) There could surely be no difference of opinion as to the fairness of the suggestion that all deeds affecting the advowson of a benefice be registered publicly in the diocesan registry. In the resolution, "That larger additional powers be granted to Bishops to refuse institution to unworthy presentees," the only exception he took was to the word "larger." Bishops had no power at all to look behind a presentation and ascertain whether there had been a simoniacal transaction. If he thought there were present twenty people who doubted the propriety of those resolutions, he would direct the appointment of a committee. But he did not think there were. (Hear, hear.) He believed that Convocation had arrived at a point at which it might entertain a good sound opinion upon such a question as the one before it, and he was sanguine enough to hope that the House would support them—of course on the understanding that they were not giving their adhesion to every word in the proposals. (Hear, hear.) Considerable importance was attached to their decision. The actuary had a letter asking for information by telegraph as to the result of the vote on that matter. They had made up their minds upon the subject, and they ought to say that, having made up their minds that there had been great scandals connected with the question at issue in the past, they were anxious to see the cause of those scandals removed. (Hear, hear.) Much had been said, and rightly said, about the goodness of the working of private patronage; and it was a channel which he for one did not wish to see stopped up. At the same time, however, that traffic in the souls of men—he could call it nothing less—ought to be prevented. (Hear, hear.) There should be the greatest checks and the most cautious safeguards adopted, and the resolutions they were debating tended in that direction. (Applause.)

The Prolocutor suggested that resolution "*b*" be omitted, if the President proposed to submit the proposals to the House *en bloc*.

The Dean of Chester consented to withdraw his amendment for the moment, till he saw the result of the voting on the resolutions as a whole.

The President then, in accordance with the expressed wishes of numerous members of both Houses, put the resolutions *seriatim*, with the following result:—*a*, carried unanimously; *b*, nine against; *c*, carried unanimously; *d*, withdrawn, with the view of its being considered by a committee which may hereafter be appointed; *e* and *f*, carried unanimously.

The Dean of Chester then submitted the following as a substantive resolution:—

That a committee be appointed to consider the question of Church patronage, and to watch the various proposals now or likely to be brought before Parliament, and to report.

The motion was adopted.

The President, in reply to a question, said he thought the Committee should consist of members of both Houses. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of Carlisle proposed that the President be requested to sent a copy of the resolutions of the House on the subject last under discussion to the Hon. E. Stanhope, M.P.

The proposal was adopted.

THE DIACONATE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

On the motion of the President, it was resolved to ask the Committee upon the question of the diaconate to prepare and circulate their report in the usual way, and that the report be considered on some future occasion.

THE COURTS OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. Canon Trevor moved—

That, to avoid unseemly litigation it is desirable to make provision by canon for appeasing diversities of ritual and teaching by the pastoral authority of the Bishop; and no suit should be commenced in the Ecclesiastical Courts without the permission of the Bishop after exercising the powers so accorded to him.

He said that the object of the resolution was to fortify the position of the Bishops in preventing ecclesiastical questions from being brought into the courts of law. There was a great consensus of authority in support of it. The speaker then went on to describe at length the trials of Archdeacon Denison and others in support of his argument. At present, he said, the Judicial Committee was the final Court of Appeal for matters connected with Church discipline, since the Church Discipline Act was passed, and for that reason the Prelates of the Church were placed upon it. Where was the authority of the Bishops now? It ended, and he had not one word more to say, from the moment he put his hand to the commission, as to what should become of the unhappy clerk, the prosecution of whom the Bishop had felt himself obliged to initiate. The Public Worship Act, which he described on the previous day in terms not a whit too strong, was not as great an innovation on the previous course of proceeding under the Act of 1846, as was generally supposed, but was the legitimate offspring of that Act. It had, however, greatly aggravated the previous evil. If the incumbent brought himself to submit to the Bishop, he had the power of determining points in dispute; but there was one fatal flaw in the Act, and that was that which also existed in the Prayer-Book, and that was that the Bishop could not say what was the law. Nothing could explain the awe and horror with which he regarded the position of the Bishop of Manchester. He wished to take that opportunity of expressing the sympathy he felt for his Lordship, whose frankness, generosity, warmness of heart, candour, and intelligence they all admitted. (Applause.) He felt for the Bishop in the position in which the Act of Parliament had placed him with regard to the case of Mr. Green. The Act said that in cases in which the Bishop did not agree with the incumbent, the Bishop should take his fellow-servant by the throat and deliver him to the judge, and the judge should deliver him to the officer, who cast him into prison, whilst his beds were sold from under his wife and children to pay the costs of a most Christian prosecution. What man who felt it an honour and privilege to be a member of the Church of England, or a clergyman who felt, as he had felt for forty-five years, an unbroken allegiance and unlimited loyalty to the Bishop of his diocese—what man of his sentiments, his age, and experience could regard without horror such an abomination of desolation standing where it ought not as that the law should come in, taking the place of the Bishop, and compelling the right rev. Prelates to act as Crown prosecutors against the clergy committed to their spiritual direction? The speaker then went on to urge the adoption of a system under which the Bishop, with certain assessors, and "without lawyers," should sit as a court for dealing with ecclesiastical cases. He merely asked Convocation to restore to the Bishops that spiritual authority handed down to them from the time of the Apostles. (Applause.)

The Dean of Carlisle, in seconding the resolution, did not wish to qualify, but rather to endorse what the mover had said. Canon Trevor had got hold of the difficulties under which they were labouring by the right handle. There was great need that the epidemic of litigation should be transferred to the spiritual sphere, although by that means the clergy were practically playing into the hands of the Bishops. The principal difficulty was—how they might recover constitutional action in the Church of England—that action which would be in most complete accord with the constitution of the Christian Church. The clergy were labouring under a most oppressive sense of the inconsistency of the present lines of action. Their contention was for constitutional reform or nothing. They respectfully but firmly demanded deliverance and emancipation from the hands of the lawyers. (Hear, hear.) They deprecated the practice by which the entanglements of the Church of England and the consequent degradation of the doctrine, ritual, and practice of the Church of England were submitted to those whom the law put over them for the time being, instead of to their fathers in God. That was not a demand for Disestablishment, for their objects were perfectly consistent with the maintenance of the national confession of faith in Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Hear, hear.) If there were any possibility of those changes being likely to lead to Disestablishment, they would meet with the utmost resistance. If the members of the Upper House, acting under what he might call the provocation offered them, could do anything to bring together the hearts of Bishops, Presbyters, and lay people, much good might result. Nothing, indeed, could better befit that synod than that it should, by its prayers and acts, bring the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest God should smite the Church of England with a curse. (Applause.)

Canon Eden said his view of the matter was that the gentleman who was now incarcerated was wrong from the first. (Hear, hear.) The true wisdom would have been for him from the outset to throw himself heartily into the hands of his Bishop. (Hear, hear.) It was not certain that vestments and the like were parts of true religion, or that they were binding on the individual conscience; but it was almost certain that the Episcopal office was of God's appointment, and that it was intended to represent the principle of peace in the Church. There must be a final appeal, and God had provided one. Admitting the fallibility of Bishops, he had always carried to his Bishop all difficulties such as those which even the gentleman in prison must acknowledge were not connected with the primary truths of salvation.

The Prolocutor said that if he found he could not obey his Bishop he should resign. He had once offered to resign when he was in the diocese of the Bishop of London. Canon Trevor's proposals were extremely good. He was afraid the Church was still a long way from getting what she ought to have in those matters, but—*Nil desperandum*. If that Convocation agreed with the principle of Canon Trevor's motion, it might be put into practice in the Province of York. (Hear, hear.)

The President said he could go a long way in the direction of Canon Trevor's motion. It was not their province to deal with the lawyers. Much contempt had been poured upon the lawyers, and he was hardly disposed to agree with it, for they owed much to the skill and care of that class. (Hear, hear). If he got into any part of the category of legal difficulties of which they had heard, he would rather be in the hands of the lawyers than of Convocation, though he had the greatest respect for the latter body. The judicial mind required a particular training, and when that training had been given, and there was no overuling prejudice to spoil it, lawyers' decisions were very fair. What would they do without the lawyers if they wished to make that canon binding? Suppose they went to the Bishop and said that they had given him authority. What had he to do? The legal sanction could only come in as a last resource in this country from Parliament and the Crown. They might discuss their canon, but before it was binding the power of Parliament must be had. He could go with the Canon in thinking that there was too much of the legal element about the subject which they were discussing. The only return to a better state of things was that the primary power of the Bishop in the matter should have its fair share of consideration. As Canon Eden had said, no one should ever dream of remodelling the entire worship of his church without consulting his Bishop. Besides, there was an obligation upon them. They took a very solemn declaration to the effect that they would obey their Bishop. That surely meant something. (Hear, hear.) He maintained with Canon Eden that those questions of ritual formed no part of the essentials of Christianity. The Church might alter them. But what struck him was, that a man full of his own zeal might go to a new parish and, taking no account of the religious consciousness of the people, begin to remodel and to introduce changes by which the minds of his congregation were harassed and perplexed, not because they were competent to form a judgment of the things themselves, but because their religious consciousness—half enlightened, it might be, in some instances—was harried and disturbed. (Hear, hear.) The change might be legal, but it might not be advisable. (Hear, hear.) The clergyman might go to the Bishop, who, at least, on the principle that two heads are better than one, might advise him what to do and what to avoid. Every Bishop of the Church of England would tell them that many difficulties arose in the way he had described; though, on the other hand, there was a great fund of obedience in that respect, and there were many who would take the course which the Prolocutor was in the habit of pursuing. He had in his mind a valued member of that Convocation, who was in his diocese, and who differed with him on certain points, though they always agreed in the main. When any point of divergence had arisen that clergyman had said, "Do not ask me to do anything that is not necessary, because I will always obey or give up my benefice." (Hear, hear.) He (the President) did not wish to see tyrannical Bishops forcing their *ipse dixit* on every clergyman. There was not much danger of that. What he wanted was that in matters connected with the public worship in a parish church, changes should be the work of the incumbent and the Bishop acting together. In such questions as that there was no need of calling into play all the apparatus of citations and articles and admission of articles, and a sentence upon the merits of the case. He would sweep all that away from the Court of the Bishop. What he wished to see was the clergyman in the presence of the Bishop talking over the questions at issue. Even where a complaint had been received from a parish he would try to avoid the expense of a legal trial. The Court of the Archbishop had long been a Court of delegation to the Judge of Arches, or a similar functionary with another name. They might do what they liked with it, but it would still be a Church Court essentially, and a clergyman should be satisfied if the clergy and the Archbishops should decide as to his conduct. It was a matter of doubt whether there should not be a limit to the enormous legal expense of the process which had to be gone through. The important point was that they should remember that there was a tribunal in which the State would have an important voice—the Court of last appeal. He entreated Convocation to remember the delicate nature of the ground on which they were treading. It was very dangerous for them to demand too much. They should very carefully examine every proposition they made, and ask themselves, "Is this something which we can ask the nation to grant? If not, the result will be that we are pressing towards Disestablishment." He did not knew how others might see the matter, but it appeared to him that the relations of Church and State were in danger of being greatly strained. (Hear, hear.) What they wanted was, not what they might think would be advantageous to enact were they starting a new Church in a new country. They must consider first and foremost whether they wished the relations between Church and State to continue, and if they did they should take care to demand nothing which the nation could not grant. (Applause.) A spiritual Court they had no chance of getting. They were going to ask the Crown to take as its advisers on a question as to whether a clergyman had forfeited his civil and ecclesiastical rights within the realm, a number of clergymen. There was the greatest diversity of opinion as to the Court of Final Appeal. He (the President) thought they would settle down into having a law Court, and he believed that would best suit the opinion of the majority. The objections to a dual Court were very great and extremely obvious. The dual Court would decide a question in the same spirit or differently. If in the same spirit, there would be no need for having the peril of the dual Court; and if differently, he could not imagine anything more likely to bring about the shipwreck of the Church of England. They must have something invested with the sanction of the Court, but it was essential that Parliament should give it the power of sanction. He agreed that the first Court should be the old-fashioned Court of the Bishop. They could not have Bishops put in a place of authority and deny them that authority. (Hear, hear.) The Church of England was in a position of great trial. He listened to Convocation with one ear, and outside that House he heard the roar of many voices calling out, "There is no God." They had to reckon with all the forces that were now at work. Their claim for self-government might be realised in some approach to perfection by the Disestablishment of the Church of England, which possibly might be near and might be distant; but there was another uprising, an uprising of a great many other principles which were of a different kind, and which threatened to destroy them. They had not only to calculate whether they could keep the Church from Disestablishment, but they were bound to say, and with a deep sense of thanksgiving to Almighty God, that they had entrusted to them very great powers, and a place of vantage from which to look out upon the troubled waters and to deal with those who were tossing to and fro upon them. He did not wish to give a vote at all upon the question.

The Bishop of Carlisle said he did not see his way to the working out of Canon Trevor's proposal. The general principal of the motion was the substitution of canon for law. He agreed that nothing could have been more mischievous than the way in which the law had been working during the last few years. The Public Worship Regulation Act, which he opposed in Parliament, had shaken almost the whole foundation of the Church of England, and they seemed scarcely to know which way to turn to get back into a sounder position. Let them remember that canons were not binding on the laity, and the question was whether the parishioners, for whom the Church existed, would submit to such an arrangement as that proposed by the resolution. There were persons whose consciences would not allow them to submit to a Bishop, although they would allow them to submit to the President of the Church Union. (Applause.) He was afraid that obedience would not be secured, although the Bishop might bring to bear upon offenders the force of a large body of clerical assessors.

After some remarks from Canon Ware (Carlisle), and the Dean of Durham, Canon Trevor replied at length.

The motion was then put to the vote, and was carried by 30 votes to 11 in the Lower House. In the Upper House there were no ayes, and one no.

THURSDAY.

LAY READERS IN THE CHURCH.

On the motion of his Grace the President, seconded by the Very Rev. the Prolocutor, it was resolved to appoint a committee of both Houses to consider and report on the proper functions, qualifications, and mode of admission of lay readers in the Church of England.

THE ARCHBISHOPS' COURTS.

The Rev. Canon Trevor moved—

That, having regard to the principles and provisions of the Acts for the Restraint of Appeals (24 and 25 Henry VIII.), it is desirable that when judgment is to be given in the Archbishop's Court on any grave question of the law divine or of spiritual learning, the judge should state the case to the spiritual Prelates of the Upper House of Convocation, whose determination should be binding on the judgment of the Court and form part of the record.

After going through the historical aspect of the question at some length, the speaker said that there must be an absolute appeal to the Queen in all matters of justice. The Crown would not now stop to distinguish between justice and spiritual learning, but gave an absolute and final decree on subjects brought before the knowledge of Her Majesty in Council, and if spiritual learning was to find expression anywhere it must be before a case got into the Council Court. The Archbishop's Court seemed to be the very place for this purpose. He did not want to go to prison, and he should do his best to keep out; but he should never believe that Lord Penzance had any spiritual jurisdiction over him. (Hear, hear.) Was it not possible that the Archbishop's Court should be made the expression of that spiritual power in law divine which was mentioned in the 24 of Henry VIII.? If that were done a great difficulty would be removed. A lay Court they must have as a last resource; but if means were not found for the expression of opinion and judgment on things spiritual, he was as certain as that he stood there that the position of the lay

Court would absolutely destroy the Establishment. It was not now a question as to whether the laity would continue the Establishment, but whether the clergy would consent to serve on the terms imposed by the State. (Hear, hear.) He saw no attack on the outside. They were getting stronger every day. What the Church had to fear was a most formidable dissension in the garrison. (Hear, hear.) Were they aware that there was a league amongst the clergy for the disestablishment of the Church of England? The laity thought that the clergy were so greatly interested in it that they could be reckoned upon to maintain the Disestablishment, but the real question was whether they would be able to make a parson do his duty. Every day the feeling of revolt against the disturbance and tyranny of the State was increasing among the clergy, and unless some means could be found, while maintaining the supremacy of the Crown—which would assuredly be kept up—of expressing the judgment of the prelates of the Church, they would never be able to command the allegiance and obedience of the clergy to the Church. The object of his motion was to make infinitely more potent in the mind and heart of every clergyman the power of the Episcopacy. From his own experience he knew that there was a growing desire among the clergy—and he thought it would be the greatest possible discouragement to them if the Bishops thought otherwise—to rush into the arms of the Bishops. (Hear, hear.)

The PRESIDENT would like to be allowed to set right one or two misapprehensions that seemed to prevail upon this subject. He had looked at the Rev. Canon's pamphlet, and the impression he got from it was the same that he got from his speech—that the Canon really believed that after the passing of the late Act the Archbishops appointed a joint judge, and left the matter to be settled by the judge of the Court of Arches, who was partly superseded. In the last session of Convocation a curious question was put to him as to whether the present Court depended for its existence on the lives of the present Archbishops. He thought that was a joke, and he therefore answered it in a jocular manner; but from some correspondence he had had with the questioner it had transpired that the question was put in all seriousness. Parliament had made it necessary for the two Archbishops to appoint the same judge. He wished it were not necessary. He should have been glad if it had been optional; but there was something to be said on the other side, and for this reason, above all others, that there was very little business to transact, certainly not enough to employ the time of one man, who could very well act for both provinces, and it was desirable that the traditions of the Court should be lodged in one man. It was said that the appointment was made with the approval of the Crown. He admitted that that was a blot which might be taken exception to; but they ought to bear in mind that the approval of the Crown was only of a tacit kind. There had not been the slightest pressure put upon the Archbishops with regard to the choice of the judge. The Archbishops consulted high legal authorities about the judge's legal abilities, which were well known, and they appointed him thereupon. The approval of the Crown, no doubt, was formally given, but no exception could be taken to the fact that when the Archbishops had done a thing the Crown should say they had done it rightly. At the same time, if he had to do the thing over again he should give his vote for not having the approval of the Crown. The official principal of the Province of York was once appointed and the approval of the Crown was not asked. The Archbishops were called upon to make the appointment of Judge of the Arches under the present Act, and if they had not done it the Crown would. He should be glad to see the law altered, but in the meantime no harm had been practically done, for the Crown had not made the appointment and the Archbishops had. All the change that had taken place with regard to the appointment had been that the Archbishops had appointed one judge and not two, and if they had not done it the Crown would have stepped in. The Province of York had no stipend to offer to an official principal, whilst the Province of Canterbury had a sufficient stipend, which was a good reason for making them content with one judge. The Church law was not altered by the Act of 1874, but a mode of procedure was prescribed. He was aware that the matter was now under the discussion of a Royal Commission. The Rev. Canon had told them exactly what that Commission, according to popular rumour, meant to do, and what it must abolish. If the Rev. Canon had been an assessor upon that Committee he would not have made such a statement. The whole matter was now under the careful consideration of that Commission. The Convocation should have laid before it the recommendations of that Commission, and that would be the time for them to give their approval or disapproval of the various things suggested. Would it therefore be wise that a single detached resolution on one part of the subject, like that before them, should be allowed to stand in the way of Convocation considering the matter at a subsequent period? After pointing out certain blots in the resolution, his Grace suggested that the matter should for the present be allowed to drop.

The Dean of DURHAM agreed with the President's suggestion. It would be extremely injudicious to commit Convocation to any expression of opinion on a single branch of the subject.

Canon TREVOR then withdrew the resolution.

THE QUALIFICATION OF LORD PENZANCE.

The PROLOCUTOR asked the President whether Lord Penzance, being an ecclesiastical judge, had qualified himself according to the canons.

The PRESIDENT, in reply, said that Lord Penzance never purported to be a judge of the Arches Court or official principal; but as soon as the Act was passed he was appointed judge under the Public Worship Regulation Act. The two previous officers were, he thought, in course of resignation at the time, and he was not clear in the expression he had used, for Lord Penzance did not supersede the judges. He (Lord Penzance) then stood in the position of a judge under the Act, and not as judge of the two Courts. When the judgeships of the two Courts became vacant it was almost immediately a question as to his succeeding to the appointments. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and himself were of opinion that Lord Penzance ought to have qualified as though the Act had not been passed; but it was said that if he did so he would feel he was calling in question the power of the Act itself, and so challenging the power of Parliament. He (the President) at that time held the opinion which he now held, that Lord Penzance's qualification ought to have been completed in the usual way. (Hear, hear.) Having given that opinion he need not say it would guide his mind on any future occasion. He had no right to speak for the Archbishop of Canterbury, but he thought his Grace would let him say that he concurred in the same view.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER AND THE REV. S. F. GREEN.

The PRESIDENT said it had been a very trying week for him, chiefly for the sympathy he felt for one of their own body. If he had had an opportunity earlier he should have mentioned one fact which he thought was of great importance. It was very important that it should not be thought that any Bishop whosoever had acted in a harsh spirit towards any of the clergy. He was told that in the Lower House on the first day a quotation was made from the charge of the Bishop of Manchester which was delivered three or four months before the Green case came to its present unfortunate position, and that charge was supposed at the time to refer to Mr. Dale, and not to Mr. Green. It had some strong words in it about the breaking of the law; but it did not apply to Mr. Green's case or Mr. Green's imprisonment, and he wanted to give the House a specimen of the way in which, as a matter of daily duty, the Prelate who was present handled these questions. "Pardon me, my dear Lord," wrote a clergyman, "if I presume to write to you in this way. Your letter is so very kind and considerate, and speaks of what I see clearly is an unavoidable necessity as far as you are concerned. I must bow to my fate. There seems to be no alternative; but I shall always remember that during the time of what has been the heaviest trial and affliction of my life, so far I received nothing but kindness and consideration at your hands." That was the testimony of a clergyman of the diocese of Manchester, and the signature to it was "Sidney F. Green." (Applause.)

The Dean of DURHAM asked to be permitted to interpose a word there in explanation of the quotation he made in the Lower House. He wished to point out that the words "anarchist and bad citizen" were used in the Bishop of Manchester's charge about four lines after the reference to the Miles Platting case.

The Bishop of MANCHESTER (who was received with cheers) said that when he wrote that passage Mr. Green's case was not in his mind, and it was applied for a long time to Mr. Dale, and he was charged by Mr. Dale's friends with having spoken very unkindly and ungenerously of him. He thought that if the Dean of Durham had read the whole passage, instead of selecting a single section, the animus of it would have been more plainly perceived. It was implied that the three clergymen in question—the three clergymen in question being Mr. Dale, Mr. Enraght, and some other—were threatened with imprisonment for acting in obedience to their consciences. No one regretted these prosecutions and their unhappy consequences more than he did, and it was a matter of profound sorrow that the scene of one was laid in his diocese. In the charge referred to by the Dean of Durham he said:—"No one, I repeat, regrets these prosecutions more than I do; but what I regret most is that there should be a justifiable ground for them. No one likes less than I the policy and proceedings of the Church Association. I refer to the way in which the prosecutions have ordinarily been got up, notably so in the case of St. John's, Miles Platting; but both their policy and proceedings would be frustrated unless there were men who provoked their action by ostentatiously defying the law of the land. I do not like thus posing as a martyr when you are only playing the part of an anarchist and a bad citizen." If Convocation would allow him—(hear, hear)—for really his conduct had been very much misrepresented—he must say he was surprised to read the statement made by the Prolocutor that St. John's, Miles Platting, was a desert when Mr. Green came to it. The fact was it had been in charge of an excellent clergyman and the church was very well filled, though he admitted by a different class of congregation. The present congregation was not a congregation of parishioners, but a congregation gathered together who liked the ritual. He had not a word to say against Mr. Green. He was a man, he believed, of pure and high motives, actuated, as he believed, entirely in this matter by his conscience; but he (the Bishop) could not help thinking that his conscience was a misguided conscience, and he could not help throwing the most part of the blame in the matter upon those outside who had advised him in this matter. The letter which he wrote to Mr. Green, and which he read at his own diocesan conference, having been misrepresented—for state the matter how they would they would somehow or other get misrepresented four or five weeks afterwards—he begged leave to read it now to Convocation, so that they might see what he wrote. He would remind Convocation that in the very year in which these proceedings were commenced, far from the parish of St. John's, Miles Platting, being a scene of perfect unity and peace, he had a petition signed by 320 parishioners, asking him to interfere. It was framed in loose and vague language, and contained no definite charges, and he therefore put it aside, hoping that by private influence with Mr. Green he might stop proceedings. They told him that as they were working men, and as he had refused them redress, they had no alternative but to put themselves in the hands of the Church Association. The Church Association had published a document in which they said they did not select the three men who were selected as prosecutors, but that their names were handed to them by some of the aggrieved parishioners. At any rate, when the representation came, it was contrary to his own nature and desire to encourage these proceedings. (Hear, hear.) If he could have stopped them in any legitimate way he should have felt bound to have stopped them, but an Act of Parliament having been passed which gave the aggrieved parishioners certain rights, he did not consider he had a right as an individual, if he could offer them no redress, to step in and prevent them from obtaining their legal remedy. On the 2nd December, 1878, he wrote to Mr. Green in the following terms:—

Manchester, December 2, 1878.

My Dear Mr. Green,—I am sorry to have to inform you that a "representation" by three parishioners, complaining of certain practices of yours in the conduct of divine service, has been made to me under the provisions of the Public Worship Regulation Act. The Act empowers me to stay proceedings, "after considering the whole circumstances of the case," if I think it expedient so to do, and nothing certainly can be further from my wishes than to promote ecclesiastical litigation in the diocese. It was the unanimous opinion of the Bishops assembled in the Lambeth Conference this summer that no change in accustomed ritual ought to be made in a church against the admonition of the Bishop; and whatever may be your opinion of the authority of the Courts which decide ecclesiastical suits in this country, I hardly think you could refuse submission to a principle, so reasonable in itself, then laid down. If you will call at the registry to-morrow you can see the representation and the matters complained of; and I hope myself to be there at one o'clock, when I shall be glad to see you. It ought not to be difficult to you, as a point of principle, to submit to the direction of your Bishop—under protest, if you please—in a matter of this kind; but if you refuse to do so, it seems to me that I have no choice but to allow the proceedings to go on. I should do so with infinite regret, but I have no alternative.—Yours,

J. MANCHESTER.

(Hear, hear.) Mr. Green called upon him, but refused to look at the representation. Mr. Green also refused to make any changes in his practices or submit himself to his Bishop. He (the Bishop) therefore felt—though he took that step with the greatest possible pain and reluctance—that he had no alternative but to allow the proceedings to go on. He had admonished Mr. Green in the year 1871. He had frequent complaints—four or five—with reference to Mr. Green between 1871 and 1881. He admonished Mr. Green in 1871, but Mr. Green did not discontinue the practice of the mixed chalice, which he mixed ceremonially, in accordance with the decision of Sir Robert Phillimore, and he (the Bishop) had a letter before him in which Mr. Green said, "I will obey your Lordship's admonition." In 1877 three charges were brought against Mr. Green of using vestments and incense. Mr. Green then explained how he came to use them, and told him that they were introduced in 1876 without any consent on his (the Bishop's) part, and without any reference to him. Mr. Green made no change in those matters, and in 1878 came a petition from 320 persons, and later still, in December, 1878, there came a representation. He had now laid the whole case before Convocation, and he asked them frankly—he was not at all afraid of what might be said, for he could justify entirely to his own conscience the course which he had taken—he asked them as Englishmen, fairly-minded, whether they were not willing to make allowances for the difficulties in which a Bishop was placed by a clergyman who would neither acknowledge the law of the land nor submit to his decision or advice. Without inviting any comment, speaking to them only by their indulgence and by favour of his Grace the Archbishop, he had thought it right to lay his case plainly before them, believing that it would receive from them a fair and just consideration. (Applause.)

THE REVISION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Rev. E. HARMAN (Carlisle) moved:—

That the thanks of this Convocation be presented to the Revisers of the New Testament for their sustained efforts in the great work entrusted to them, and that this Convocation unites in the prayer that under the blessing of Almighty God the revised translation may materially advance the knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scriptures.

Archdeacon HEY seconded the motion, and expressed regret that the Northern Province did not take part in the revision.

The PROLOCUTOR thought it would be sufficient if the resolution stopped at the words "entrusted to them."

Canon TREVOR, in opposing the motion, said that "this revised thing" had led to discussion and disaster to the English Bible, and so far from helping to promote the study of the Word of God, he took it to be a distinct step in the race of that criticism which had led to the most disastrous results in the country in which it originated.

The PRESIDENT asked whether it would not be better to wait until the next session of Convocation, and have the whole matter discussed, because it was a great and grave question, and would require considerable discussion. He had very strong views about the Revision. What would probably be the course of things would be this—that the Revised Version, with other helps that had come and would come, would be the subject of a new inquiry. What we wanted for the Church was not the maximum of alteration but the minimum of alteration. (Hear, hear.) Say what the Revisers would, the English Bible, with its merits and its faults, was uncommonly good English, and was very dear to the people of England, and he had no doubt that the mass of people of this country were not in favour of abandoning the one and taking up the other. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of MANCHESTER did not think they could enter into a critical discussion of the merits of the Revised Version at that period.

The Dean of YORK hoped the discussion would be adjourned. They would be going out of their way to recognise a translation which was not adopted by them, and which had been condemned by one of the most distinguished members of the Southern Convocation.

The Rev. E. HARMAN then withdrew the resolution.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONS ON THE CONTINENT.

The Rev. J. PALMES (on behalf of the Rev. George Body, who was absent through illness) moved:—

That his Grace the President be prayed to direct the appointment of a Joint Committee of the two Houses, for the purpose of considering how to provide for the Episcopal superintendence of English congregations on the continent of Europe not under the supervision of the Bishop of Gibraltar.

Archdeacon BLUNT seconded the proposition, which was carried, and the committee was selected.

Convocation was then formally prorogued until the 16th March.

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ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 12.

(TWENTY-FOURTH QUARTER.)

1. D roo D
2. A lin A
3. R est Y
4. K ey S

Light 1: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood.* Light 2: *The Fairy Queen*, Book 2, Canto 10. Light 3: Phineas Fletcher's "Purple Island," Canto 8, stanza 42. Light 4: The House of Keys, the Manx Parliament.

A correct solution has been received from Knole. 35 incorrect, total, 36.

The Editor observes with regret, that KNOLE has again made use of so large a number of alternatives as to make the guessing of the right word among them a matter of slight difficulty. As no one else has thought it right to do this, the Editor hesitated for some time as to whether he should allow KNOLE'S claim or not.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.

(TWENTY-FIFTH QUARTER.)

PROEM.

My first to my second has just been presented,
May he from obtaining it long be prevented.

1.
If this light you fail to see,
Surely you will merit me.

2.
Once a sea-port,
Now a see;
A poet's grave
You'll find in me.

3.
How many joys on earth we miss,
Because our lives are full of *this*.

4.
"Shining through sorrow's stream,
Saddening through pleasure's beam,
Thy suns with doubtful gleam,
Weep while they rise."

5.
"Like a dragon-fly, ———
O'er the drowsy head of Kwasind."

6.
"Return to her?
No, rather I abjure all roofs and choose.
To be a comrade with the wolf and this."

7.
In olden time, in me arrayed,
The knight rode forth to his country's aid,
But now o'er all the earth I roam,
And take to exiles news from home.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Bradlaugh entered the House of Commons shortly after the Speaker took the Chair, and occupied his usual place under the Peers' Gallery. Mr. Labouchere held a lengthened conversation with the Speaker, who immediately afterwards consulted with Sir Thomas Erskine May. From these indications it was assumed that Mr. Bradlaugh meditated another attempt to take the Oath.

Mr. LABOUCHERE asked the Attorney-General whether, having regard to No. 72 of the Rules and Orders, declaring that every member was bound to attend the service of this House, and to the Resolution of this House of the 7th of February, whereby Mr. Bradlaugh was prevented from fulfilling all the duties imposed upon members, a vacancy had not occurred in the representation of the borough of Northampton.

Mr. NEWDEGATE said that before the Attorney-General answered this question he wished to ask one which seemed to arise out of the one which the hon. member for Northampton had put. It was, whether or not, after the decision of the Court and the decision of this House in his case, Mr. Bradlaugh was not disqualified.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that, in answer to the question of the hon. member for Northampton, he wished purposely to avoid entering into matter which might hereafter arise upon a resolution submitted to the House, and be settled by the House itself. He would content himself by saying that he knew no ground on which it could now be alleged that a vacancy had occurred in the representation of the borough of Northampton. The question of the hon. member for North Warwickshire was also answered in the reply he had given, that certainly as matters stood now the seat had not become vacant.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: Mr. Speaker, with you permission, I will ask you a question, the tenor of which I have already stated to you. It is whether the resolution of Feb. 7 with regard to Mr. Bradlaugh is regular, it being in absolute contradiction with the Standing Order of April 30, 1866, although that Standing Order has neither been suspended nor amended.

The SPEAKER: The Standing Order to which the hon. member refers relates to the time when members may take and subscribe the oath required by law. It is in these terms:—"Members may take and subscribe the oath required by law at any time during the sitting of the House before the Orders of the Day and Notices of Motion have been entered upon, or after they have been disposed of; but no debate or business shall be interrupted for the purpose." I am bound to say that I cannot see any inconsistency between the resolution of the 7th of February and the Standing Order which I have now read. In my opinion the resolution of the 7th of February is quite regular.

One of the most dreadful calamities which ever occurred in the Durham coalfield took place about three o'clock on Thursday afternoon at Tremdon Grange Colliery, near Hartlepool. It is feared that some 60 men have been lost, but at present no details have been given.

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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 18.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The situation of affairs in Egypt is not satisfactory, and the efforts of the "Egypt for the "Egyptians" party to get up an agitation against foreign interference show no sign of diminution. It is not a little significant that the PRIME MINISTER and the MINISTER of WAR should have been present at a meeting at which violent speeches were delivered against European interference in Egyptian affairs. This appears at present to be the only act by which the new Ministry, which consists entirely of persons devoid of official experience, has endeavoured to justify its existence. Meanwhile, the controversy whether ARABI BEY is an enlightened patriot or merely an audacious mutineer continues to be waged, the balance of opinion being, however, strongly in favour of the latter view. He is notoriously hostile to French and English influence in Egypt, whether he be acting from motives of pure self-interest or from his own mistaken view of the true interests of his country, or merely as the instrument of others who find him useful to carry out those intrigues in which they are prevented from personally engaging by their banishment from Egypt. In whatever capacity he may be supposed to be acting, his influence, based as it is on military mutiny, must be pernicious to the existence of an established Government in the land of Khemi, as Mr. OLIPHANT calls it. At present loyal support is promised to the Financial Control and the various subordinate European Commissions. But this is not likely to last very long; and now that by the spasmodic action of our own Ministry the other Powers have been invited to interfere in the pacification of Egypt, the Control system, which has worked so well for the country and done so much for its prosperity, stands a fair chance of being reformed off the face of the land to make way for something more cosmopolitan to please the new protectors, or something more Egyptian to please the protected.

There is little other foreign news of importance. In France the prospects of the Commercial Treaty grow less and less favourable, and the new MINISTER of COMMERCE is said to be strongly opposed to any further concessions. M. GAMBETTA has returned from his tour in Italy, and has resumed the editorship of the *République Française*, with those of his colleagues who were associated with him both in the Cabinet and on the editorial staff. There is a rumour that he is about to retire on his fortune; but this seems hardly probable, and it is more likely that he will bide his time and look to an opportunity of overthrowing M. DE FREYCINET, despite the pacific tone which his paper has adopted towards his successors in office, whom it patronisingly pronounces to be the next best thing to the great Ministry itself.

The adjourned debate on the Address was resumed on Friday week, when Mr. GIBSON, in a powerful and well-reasoned speech, replied to Mr. FORSTER'S Apologia. So far as the CHIEF SECRETARY defended the more vigorous action which the Government had at length adopted, his critic was of opinion that no defence was necessary; but he showed to demonstration that the Government were indeed terribly to blame for having delayed so long before adopting it. There is, however, little difference of opinion as to this, except among the extreme party in Ireland and in England. It is of course natural that the former should object to any attempt, however tardy, to put down the illegal organisation which has worked with so fatal an effect, while their English sympathisers know well enough the cause of the delay, whether they avow with open cynicism, like Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, that to have stifled agitation would have prevented the Land Act, or are more decorously and hypocritically reticent as to the relationship between the two. Mr. GIBSON'S severe comments on the Sub-Commissioners, and as to the use made by the IRISH SOLICITOR-GENERAL, for electioneering purposes, of the fact that they only hold office during pleasure, were not more severe than well merited, and the latest development of the PRIME MINISTER'S unscrupulousness was sarcastically commented upon by him, as also by Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL in a vigorous and spirited speech worthy of the brilliant skirmisher who supplements the somewhat slow attack of the heavy-armed hoplites under Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE.

On Monday Mr. PLUNKET returned to the charge, and endeavoured, but in vain, to draw from the PRIME MINISTER an explanation or repudiation of his Home Rule utterances. After this Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who is more happy as a caucus-manager than as an orator, made an attempt to explain away his famous Birmingham speech, in which he had, so unfortunately for himself and his colleagues, revealed the true secret of the long impunity allowed to the Land Leaguers and to the organisers of the Irish reign of terror. Translated into plain English, his speech was an acknowledgment that the Government could have stifled the agitation and put a stop to the outrages, but deliberately abstained from so doing on the ground that the agitation and outrages were lawful while they could be utilised for the purpose of carrying the Ministerial measure through Parliament, and that their illegality commenced from the time when they ceased to be useful to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and his colleagues. Those "Fathers "of the Church" to whom Mr. DAWSON appealed last week in support of the distinction between advising a man not to pay rent at all, and not to pay rent until he chose to do so, might perhaps distinguish between the Ministerial encouragement to agitation, as painted by Mr. PLUNKET, and as explained by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN; but to less subtle

minds a Government which, being charged with the defence of law and order, deliberately refuses to defend them on such grounds as alleged by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, is justly open to the accusation of encouraging agitation and outrage in order to carry out its own purposes. A man whose duty it is to put down an evil, who has the power to do so, and deliberately declines to use that power, cannot be allowed to hold up his hands in pious horror at the imputation that he has encouraged it. There is a support afforded by abstaining to act as well as by acting, and it was not necessary for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN or Mr. GLADSTONE to have enrolled themselves as members of the Land League in order to justify the charge against them of encouraging that illegal organisation.

The main features of Tuesday's debate were the remarkable speech of Mr. SEXTON, and the perhaps still more remarkable collapse of the debate itself. The late denizen of Kilmainham, who seems to have recovered in a miraculous manner from the indisposition to which he owed his release, was not very grateful to the "commonplace, clumsy CROMWELL" who had let him out. He was remarkably outspoken, coming within a measurable distance of treason, and illustrated the peaceful and constitutional character of the Land League with an ingenuity worthy of the most recent convert to Home Rule, the PRIME MINISTER himself, who must have been gratified at this ready response to his request that the Irish members would "formulate" their demands. When he sat down the debate came to an abrupt close, nobody rising on the part of the Government to reply to his authoritative exposition of the Home Rule policy, which now appears to Mr. GLADSTONE to be worthy of "effectual discussion." It was subject of comment that the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND was present in the House at the time, and might just as well have then delivered the three-hour harangue with part of which he talked out Wednesday's sitting. We can hardly suppose that the excuse made for him that it would have been inconsistent with his dignity to have spoken during the dinner hour can have been seriously advanced, and his inopportune silence on Tuesday and inopportune loquacity on Wednesday have the appearance of being part of a concerted scheme.

For it had become evident to the Ministers that the longer they could delay the debate on the new Rules of Procedure the greater would be the prospect of the success of the political terrorism applied to those members of the Liberal party who could not be relied upon blindly to accept those Rules in all their naked deformity and absurdity. There can be no doubt that a vote by ballot would place the Government in a minority, at all events on the first Rule, which will enable two hundred and one members to silence two hundred, or twenty-one members to silence twenty. But it is very difficult for a Liberal member of Parliament to have the courage of his opinions, and the terrors of impending dissolution, the crack of the Liberal whip, the threatening utterances of the caucus have all been employed during the week for the purpose of saving the Government from ignominious defeat by the rejection of their proposals for silencing opposition by the more intelligent and scrupulous members of that very majority which they propose to invest with such unprecedented powers.

The deferred speech of the Irish ATTORNEY-GENERAL was commenced in the debate on the Report of the Address on Wednesday, which also gave Sir HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF and Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT an opportunity of criticising severely the foreign policy of the Government. They were replied to with some flippancy by Sir CHARLES DILKE, who clings with all the determination of an advanced Liberal to the belief that when the suspicious movements of Russian troops, the suspicious extension of Russian railways, and the suspicious successes of Russian diplomatists are called to the attention of a Liberal Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, his only duty is to explain them away. Such a method of treating an important subject is of evil import for the security of our Indian Empire, and likely to produce a very false impression among the foreign statesmen, who naturally regard the honourable Baronet as speaking with authority and representing the opinions of his chief.

On Thursday the Irish ATTORNEY-GENERAL continued his speech amid considerable interruptions from the Home Rulers, who found him by no means so ready to appreciate their patriotic efforts as his chief had been. His retorts on Mr. SEXTON would have been very effective if delivered in reply to his aggressive speech, but they lost much of their effect by having been allowed to stand over. Mr. LOWTHER criticised the Irish policy of the Government from the opposite point of view to that taken by the Land League orator, and pointed out that after all the No-Rent Manifesto was but an expansion of the Disturbances Bill. This drew Mr. GLADSTONE, and he at length broke the silence which he had maintained as to the true interpretation to be put upon his now famous speech of last week. But, with that happy knack which so distinguishes him, he contrived to make his explanation more obscure than his original utterances. His main defence was that he had only said again what he said before, and he appeared to consider this quite a sufficient justification for the time and occasion which he had selected for renewing his invitation to the Home Rulers to formulate their demands. It is certain that his explanation will not encourage those who would maintain the integrity of the Empire, or discourage those who are doing all they can to destroy it.

The result of the Taunton election cannot be explained away as anything but a great Conservative triumph, though it makes no difference in the relative strength of the two parties, as the late Sir WILLIAM PALLISER, whose loss will be much felt outside the House of Commons as well as within, was like his successor a good Conservative. But the great increase in the majority which has placed Mr. ALLSOPP in the seat vacated by the untimely death of the distinguished inventor over that by which Sir WILLIAM himself headed the ATTORNEY-GENERAL at the General Election is very significant. The present member polled 1,144 votes against the 1,084 with which the late member headed the poll, while Lord KILCOURSIE was unsuccessful with 917 votes against the 1,000 which were recorded for Sir HENRY JAMES. Such indications as this of the waning popularity of the Ministry and of the recovery of the constituencies from the wave of delusion which swept over them in 1880 are very significant. There is but one cause of regret about them, that they will add an additional pang to the terrors of dissolution for the Liberal members in general, and thus more dispose them to accept without protest the nauseous draught in the way of the new Rules which their imperious chief insists upon their swallowing.

The Convocation of each Province has been sitting this week, and their discussions are of considerable interest and importance, though we fear that they will not receive the consideration which they deserve in consequence of the demands made upon public attention by the other Estate of the Realm. The Parliament of the laity is passing through a crisis in its history which throws for a time the Parliament of the clergy into the shade. But we should regret that owing to the absorbing interest of the one our readers should overlook the other. In both Convocations, as might have been expected, the continued imprisonment of Mr. GREEN for conscience' sake was a prominent topic. The relations of Church and State to which that imprisonment has attracted notice, and the faulty constitution of the ecclesiastical tribunals, or rather of the lay tribunals claiming jurisdiction in ecclesiastical matters, to which it is mainly due, were also discussed. We have fully reported the most important features of these discussions, and would refer our readers to that report rather than attempt in this place to give what can be but a meagre and unsatisfactory abstract of them.

THE *CLOTURE.*

Though the debate on the Address has continued throughout the week and prevented the introduction of the Government proposals for the suppression of freedom of debate, the interest, and we may add the indignation, excited by those proposals show no sign of diminution. Indeed they are so great as to have overshadowed, at all events for the time, the remarkable declaration of Mr. GLADSTONE in favour of the legislative independence of Ireland. Whether that declaration be a mere bid for the Home Rule vote, or whether a more subtle political calculation underlies the apparently spontaneous and uncalled-for enunciation by the PRIME MINISTER of opinions from which the most advanced and the least patriotic of his predecessors would have shrunk in horror, remains to be seen. But, accepting either view, it cannot be doubted that the declaration itself is intimately connected with the Parliamentary Coercion Bill embodied in the new Rules of Procedure. If it be worth Mr. GLADSTONE's while to sacrifice the integrity of the Empire to the prospect of catching the sweet voices of the Irish electors in English boroughs, it must be from a conviction that those voices will before long have the opportunity of making themselves heard. A bid for the Irish vote—we will not pause to discuss the patriotism or want of patriotism involved in such a bid, for patriotism and Mr. GLADSTONE have long since parted company—implies the approach of a general election. Having in view the large numerical majority which yet remains as the result of the temporary madness of the constituencies in 1880, it might seem strange how the chief of these *gros bataillons* should contemplate a fresh appeal to the country. But the explanation is to be found in the sullen murmurs with which his gag proposals have been received by many of his own supporters. It might become necessary for him to dissolve upon the question; it was at all events necessary for him to show those Liberals who ventured to think for themselves that he was quite prepared to do so. Taking the other view, that the PRIME MINISTER merely wished to encourage the ringing of a variety of chapel bells by the Irish members at Westminster in the shape of yet more obstructive tactics, so as yet more to disgust England with their presence at St. Stephen's, Westminster, and increase the readiness of Englishmen to relegate them to St. Stephen's, Dublin, the connection of his declaration with his proposed Rules is no less clear. The increased activity of the Irish members in the way of obstruction, stimulated by the hint thus held out to them, would be an additional argument in favour of the proposed repressive measures which are no longer to be confined to dealing with the persistent and avowed obstruction of the followers of Mr. PARNELL, but are intended to strike a blow at the rights of all minorities. Thus the connection, not quite apparent at first sight, between Mr. GLADSTONE's attempt—suggested no doubt by his success in South Africa—to reduce his QUEEN to the condition of Suzerain of Ireland, and his attempt to elevate himself to the position of Dictator of England, is made more clear, and we can feel less surprise that the latter should have attracted even more interest during the past week than the former has done.

The now famous new Rules will doubtless receive during the coming week a yet more searching criticism within the walls of Parliament than they have already been subjected to at the hands of the outside world. And it is not likely that they will improve upon acquaintance. With the exception of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's organ, the opinion of the public press is most unfavourable to the suggested tyrannical curtailment of the rights of minorities, and the transformation of the sittings of the House of Commons into a series of "Beds of Justice." Even the *Times* itself has forsaken the Ministry on this important question, and in a spirited article appeals from Mr. GLADSTONE himself to his colleagues in the Ministry, from the Ministers themselves to the members of the House of Commons, from the members of the House of Commons to the constituencies which they represent. It would perhaps have been better to have appealed from Mr. GLADSTONE drunk—we of course use the expression metaphorically, drunk with morbid vanity, intolerance of opposition, and pride of place—to Mr. GLADSTONE sober. Even the elect of Midlothian must remember in his day of prosperity that he is a man, and that a majority is but like IAGO's purse. The power of suppressing a minority is no doubt invaluable to a man like Mr. GLADSTONE; but, even if he regards the question from a purely selfish point of view, he should remember that he may come to be in a minority himself. Had the *clôture* prevailed during the last Parliament it would have been the followers, not the opponents, of Mr. GLADSTONE who would have been silenced by it The tyranny of majorities is a game at which both sides can play—that is to say if both sides are equally unscrupulous. But we venture to doubt if Lord BEACONSFIELD, though at the head of a majority no less irresistible and certainly more compact than Mr. GLADSTONE's, would have shown himself so untrue to the great traditions of the past as to introduce a system of *clôture* such as that which seems not only natural but desirable to his rival. But then Lord BEACONSFIELD was wont to remember that he was the Prime Minister of England; his successor in office only remembers that he is the head of Mr. GLADSTONE's Administration. Lord BEACONSFIELD would have regarded any attempt at the destruction of the distinctive character of the English Parliament as little less than suicidal on the part of an English statesman; Mr. GLADSTONE, on the other hand, regards any attempt at opposition to his own will as little less than suicidal on the part of an English Parliament. It is not yet too late for the members of the House of Commons to decide whether they are prepared, at the bidding of the unscrupulous chief of a submissive Ministry, to sacrifice all the traditions of a great past, and to reduce the historic assembly of which they form part to a mere machine for registering the decrees of those who happen for the time being to have at their back a majority—if the first Rule passes as it stands, it may be a bare majority. It is to be hoped that a sufficient number of Liberal members may be found who will disregard the threats of dissolution, always so terrible to Parliamentary ears, and the more novel threats of the new *imperium in imperio* which has grown up under the fostering care of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. The caucus which issues its orders that the first Rule must be accepted on pain of the loss of his seat by every Liberal member, consists, it is true, of a set of nobodies as little qualified as the Three Tailors of Tooley-street to speak in the name of the country; but it is one of the worst features of the organisation introduced by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN that it has thrown the control of Parliamentary elections into the hands of nobodies.

EGYPT.

Many and various as are the grounds upon which all true lovers of their country must regret that the government of England should have passed at the present time into the hands of the ill-omened triumvirate—GLADSTONE, DILKE, and CHAMBERLAIN—not the least important of them are those connected with our foreign policy. It is not necessary to go back once more, at any length, to the rupture of our good understanding with Austria, owing to the PRIME MINISTER's almost personal feeling of hatred towards our ancient ally, though the mischief caused by his inconsiderate and irresponsible utterances has by no means been done away by the grovelling apologies tendered in that spirit of extreme humility which, when expedient, tempers Mr. GLADSTONE's habitual arrogance. Nor need we dwell upon the contemptuous feeling towards England which has, in the mind of the astute German CHANCELLOR, taken the place of the enforced respect and genuine admiration won by Lord BEACONSFIELD's statesmanship, restoring as he did his country to her old place among the Great Powers. These losses were but poorly compensated by the *entente cordiale* between our UNDER SECRETARY of FOREIGN AFFAIRS and the would-be Dictator of France, based not so much upon any agreement in a definite course of foreign policy as beneficial alike to France and England, but rather on a common love for Republican institutions of the most extreme type. And this *entente cordiale* itself, from which so much was expected that the Radicals waived their supposed objection to what we may call personal, as opposed to official diplomacy in favour of the pour-parlers of Citizen DILKE and Citizen GAMBETTA, has not been able to procure for us that Treaty of Commerce, by which, as a nation of shopkeepers, we were to be compensated for the loss of our position in Europe. The assumption that France was as ready to obey the Dictator as England has unfortunately shown herself to obey the Triumvirate, was based on one of the many false calculations in which the present Ministry have indulged. The fall of M. GAMBETTA—justifying the wisdom with which he so long confined himself to the attitude of a Midlothian critic, and refused to accept the responsibilies of office, which, as he foresaw, would burst the bubble of his necessity to France—has left Sir CHARLES DILKE out in the cold, but, unfortunately, has not left England in the same position in which she was before the two citizens of Brentford smelt at the same nosegay. For, brief as was M. GAMBETTA's tenure of power, he contrived, in the course of it, to involve his friend in an Egyptian muddle. Sir CHARLES determined to show the world that the GLADSTONE Government had a spirited foreign policy of its own, and M. GAMBETTA, hardly acting candidly by his friend, used the opportunity to assert once more that French influence in Egyptian affairs against the extension of which any prudent English statesman would have been on his guard. The result of their deliberations was the Joint Note, which went so far towards strengthening the party whose cry is "Egypt for the Egyptians," and to popularise that cry by adding to it "No dividends for "European bondholders," as the Irish have popularised their cry by adding to it "No "rent." The terms of the Note were, at the same time, well calculated to rouse the jealousy of the other great European Powers. The consequent military arrangements are disclaimed by our own Foreign Office—which was just as well when about half our available army is engaged in supporting the Ministerial policy in Ireland

—but we cannot be surprised that to the more logical French mind they appeared to be unavoidably connected with it. This would in itself have proved something more than the rift in the lute, even had M. Gambetta continued in office; and the announcement of a difference of opinion on this point between the two Powers was not calculated to add to the effect of the Note upon Arabi Bey and his supporters. This was a further mischief of the abandonment of the true English policy, which would have involved the necessity of an appeal to the Porte to exercise its sovereign authority in its dependency. But for Mr. Gladstone's Government to appeal to the Porte was something "too utterly too" to be contemplated. Then, with the fall of his French friend, Sir Charles Dilke thought it more prudent to retire into the background; and Lord Granville, taking alarm at what he had been led into, rushed into the contrary extreme. Having, at the suggestion of France, embarked on a course of action which might arouse the jealousy of the other Powers, his next step is to abandon yet more completely all the traditions of our foreign policy and to invite the co-operation of Russia, Germany, Austria, and Italy, as well as France, in the suppression of the Home Rule movement in Egypt. The Powers would be more or less than human if they neglected the opportunity thus afforded to them of destroying the predominance of English influence in Egypt—a predominance which hitherto Liberals and Conservatives alike have regarded as of the utmost importance. The conversion of Egypt into an Eastern Belgium, and the consequent closing of the Suez Canal to English ships in time of war, would be a fatal blow to us. It is no mere question of *prestige*, but we should feel the material effect of it in the not improbable event of our having to fight for the preservation of our Indian Empire. This is the more deplorable when we remember that the direct pathway to that Empire on the side of Russia has been thrown open by the same ruinous policy to which we should have to attribute the closing of the direct pathway to it on the side of England.

Correspondence.

THE PARLIAMENTARY OATH.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—In order to realise the demoralised state of a "school of thought in our Church" from which better things than advocating hypocrisy might have been expected, I would point out that a recent petition was presented to Parliament, asking that Mr. Bradlaugh should be permitted to take the oath and his seat. That petition was largely signed (as might have been anticipated) by persons who are notoriously, avowedly, and ostentatiously non-Christian, by several Agnostics, and by—what was *à priori* inconceivable—more than half-a-dozen Radical Ritualistic clergymen.

Now, an oath has been thus defined: "An oath is a religious act, by which God is specially called to witness, for the confirmation of some matter in doubt."

A man who disbelieves in God, and is without religion, can no more taken an oath—which, as thus set forth, is an invocation of the Eternal as a witness to the confirmation of some matter in doubt—than a person can fly without wings or walk without legs. The thing, *ex necessitate rei*, is impossible. For how can one who disbelieves in the existence of the Deity call Him to become a witness that a certain assertion being made is true?

Such an act would not only be a public exhibition of blasphemy. It would be inherently hypocritical and despicably false. It would be an acted lie.

Yet this is what certain Radical clergymen recently asked Parliament to permit, and deliberately and knowingly sanction. Surely they cannot have measured the force of their words or the import of their petition. Mark what is involved in such request. And let your readers note how such action tends to break down and destroy all the surroundings of our holy religion, and to uproot the very foundations of morality and truth.

Surely such a policy can neither deserve man's respect nor merit God's blessing.

And yet the *Guardian* can express a "hope that the exaggerated importance which it (the question of the oath) has given to Mr. Bradlaugh and his opinions may soon be done away with."

Yours obediently,

FREDERICK GEORGE LEE.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

The *Athenæum* states that Mr. Swinburne has nearly completed a narrative poem in several books upon a theme of which poets never tire, the story of Tristram and Iseult.

The volume of speeches and addresses by Lord Dufferin, to be published next week by Mr. Murray, is not limited to addresses delivered in Canada, which made so great an impression both there and here, but also embraces many social and literary subjects.

Sir Richard Temple's long-promised work on *Men and Events of My Time in India* will be published next week by Mr. Murray. Sir Richard's previous volume, *India in* 1880, related to external things; this book, on the contrary, is mainly devoted to the description of particular men in their public capacities, or to summaries of their official conduct, and of their idiosyncrasies as displayed in the manner whereby they served their country.

Though the negotiations for a copyright convention between the United States and this country are proceeding slowly, no doubt is entertained in United States publishing circles as to the result. In consequence of this several firms are paying English authors larger terms for advance sheets than they have heretofore paid. Some publishers who have been in the habit of reprinting books without paying the English author are now offering remuneration, in order, doubtless, to be in his good graces when a copyright convention gives him freedom of contract. It is rumoured that the Canadians are desirous of absolute independence in the matter of copyright, and that the Hon. William Macdougall will introduce a Bill on the subject in the present session of the Dominion Parliament. The complaint of the Canadians is that English books are too dear; yet our sixpenny editions are cheaper than any which they can produce themselves or import from the United States.

According to the *Academy*, Professor A. H. Sayce has returned to Oxford from his winter's tour in Egypt, but not in better health.

Mr. J. A. Symonds is engaged in printing a collection of 150 original sonnets.

Mr. Quaritch is about to publish a catalogue of unusual character, but singularly interesting by reason of its contents. It comprises the literature of fiction—not including any of the countless novels and romances which have flooded the reading world during the last century—from its earliest appearance in the form of apologues and fables down to the sentimental absurdities of the seventeenth century.

Dr. Buddensieg, of Dresden, has discovered in the Studien Bibliothek at Olmütz a Wiclif MS., hitherto unknown, containing no fewer than six Wiclif tracts, none of which are preserved in any English library.

The first volume has appeared in Paris of the work entitled *Continuateurs de Loret*, which Baron James de Rothschild was preparing for the press at the time of his death. It contains 138 "newsletters," if we may so call them, arranged in chronological order, covering the period from May, 1665, to June, 1668.

Professor Sydney Colvin has finished an important article on Leonardo da Vinci for the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Mr. Wild's excavations at Cairo have resulted in the discovery of a monolith belonging to Apries, the Pharaoh Hopra of the Old Testament, and bearing the inscription—"The beloved of Ptah of Memphis, giving life for ever, the good god Ra-aa-ab, lord of the two lands, Apries."

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

The working of the Irish Land Act engaged their Lordships' attention for a brief period, on Lord Oranmore and Browne moving for returns relating to the appointment of the sub-commission. Lord Carlingford, while agreeing to part of the returns being furnished, reserved what he had to say on the whole working of the Land Act till Friday next, when Lord Donoughmore's motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the working of the Act will be before the House. Lord Oranmore and Browne then put a question as to Mr. Fottrell, solicitor to the Land Commission, to which Lord Carlingford replied that Mr. Fottrell acted in his professional capacity in the purchase of the *Irishman* newspaper, and that he had not been solicitor to the Land League. Lords Dunsany, Fortescue, and Stanhope criticised Mr. Fottrell's appointment, which Lord Carlingford said rested with the Commissioners, and not with the Government. His Lordship's replies were marked with considerable reserve, and this led to Lord Salisbury expressing his surprise that the Government was so ignorant of departmental details, and his astonishment at the circumstances which attended the publication of the pamphlet *How to Purchase your own Farm*, the manuscript of which Mr. Godley and the commissioners admitted that they had not first read. Coming to the assistance of his colleague, Lord Granville assured the noble Marquis that the Government had important information in their possession, which they would lay before the House on the discussion of Earl Donoughmore's motion for a Select Committee. The matter then dropped, and the House rose at 6.25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

Mr. Joseph Cowen, sitting amongst the Parnellites, as though with a band of brothers; and Mr. Bradlaugh, sitting with his hat on below the bar, were amongst the commonplace features of the earlier part of the sitting. The attendance was at no time large, and the questions generally did not possess much interest. Mr. Redmond met with a somewhat evasive reply to his inquiry relative to the power of the Government to suppress certain newspapers in England. The question, said the Home Secretary, was a legal one, upon which it would not be discreet for him to give an opinion. Replying to Mr. Gorst, Mr. Courtney explained the circumstances under which a conflict had arisen with the Chief Montesima, and stated that instructions had been sent to the resident at Pretoria to impress upon the Transvaal Government the desirability of abstaining from hostile action against neighbouring tribes. With some curiosity, the House learned through a reply of the Premier to Sir W. Lawson that, although the Government has no intention of proposing to the House any measure for altering the licensing laws during the present session, the Bill they would introduce with respect to local government would have a certain bearing on the licensing question. Lord Percy now pressed for information as to Mr. Farrar's Cobden Club pamphlet, and the assistance which the writer—a permanent Crown official—had received from the President of the Board of Trade. Amidst ironical "hears," the Premier replied that he disapproved of permanent Crown officials issuing controversial pamphlets, but the President of the Board of Trade was of opinion that Mr. Farrar's treatise did not deal with any controversial political question. Mr. Gladstone, next replying to an appeal from Baron de Worms, refused to give facilities for a discussion of the question of the persecution of the Jews in Russia till the new rules were disposed of, and the adjourned debate on the Address was then resumed.

In a speech quiet in style, but incisive and powerful in argument, Mr. Plunket renewed the charges of hesitancy and weakness on the part of the Government in their Irish policy so frequently made during the debate. Their policy, he contended, was theirs, and theirs alone, for although the Land League originated in the time of the late Government it did not attain its power and such influence as it had, and the tendency of its agitation was fully estimated by the late Lord Beaconsfield, who gave due warning of the subject for the benefit of his successors. In respect to the present position of affairs, he found great fault with the Land Commission for the partisan character of some of the Sub-Commissioners, and pointed to a want of elasticity in their treatment of the cases brought before them—a treatment which seemed to indicate that it mattered little whether the estate was large or small, whether it was well or ill-managed, or whether the rent had been fixed long ago or recently. He believed that the reductions generally effected threatened to reduce the rentals by 22 per cent. or upwards all over Ireland, and he held that if for high purposes of State such a large average reduction took place, grievous public plunder would be perpetrated unless compensation were given. He warned the House that they had not yet seen the end of the disorder and demoralisation for which the Government is largely accountable, and referring to the interpretation which had been generally put on the Premier's late speech, he challenged the Government to say without equivocation whether or not they proposed to treat Home Rule as an open question.

Mr. Chamberlain followed with a speech singularly laboured, in many respects a faint echo of that of the Solicitor-General for Ireland on Friday evening. Evidently he indulged the innocent belief that the Government had no sins either of omission or commission to answer for, and content very largely to rest their reputation on mere assertion, he declared that the best justification of their policy was the fact that the remedial measures and the measures for the repression of disorder and crime were working together, and working successfully. The right hon. gentleman was followed by Mr. Northcote, who confined himself almost solely to a defence of the criticisms of the Government which he had made during the recess, and which Mr. Chamberlain had endeavoured to impugn. Mr. Chamberlain, he said, had admitted in his Liverpool speech that it was in the power of the Government to have stifled the Land League in its origin, and he declared that if that were true they had failed in their policy in not having done so. Next, Mr. Marum gave a noisy and proportionately ineffective support of the amendment; and then a general defence of the action of the Government was offered by Mr. Blennerhassett, who, however, observed that, whilst he could not adopt the doctrine of compensation, he thought that form of relief should be afforded to those poorer landlords who must inevitably be ruined under the operation of the Land Act. Mr. Barry accused the Government of obtaining its Coercion Act by false pretences, and Mr. Dickson, the newly-elected member for Tyrone, whilst giving a general support to Government, expressed considerable misgiving as to the value of coercion.

Lord George Hamilton now addressed the House, and with considerable power applied himself at the outset to a crucial criticism of the speech of Mr. Chamberlain at Liverpool, so frequently referred to during the debate. His Lordship had judiciously provided himself with a copy of the speech in question, which he said he had carefully compared with several other reports which had appeared in various newspapers, so as to satisfy himself as to its accuracy. The only deduction which could logically be drawn from the speech was this, that the Government had deliberately held their hands in suppressing the Land League because the agitation carried on by the organisation of the League was a form of assistance which the Government had required in influencing the passing of the Land Act. In fact, it was utilised, he said, for Parliamentary purposes, although members of the Government had since admitted that the League was criminal in its objects. To this issue, therefore, he brought the matter, that if the League was criminal, and the Government had yet used it to further their designs, they had been guilty of treachery to the leaders, and if it were not criminal they had no right to ask for their coercive measures. His Lordship proceeded to inveigh against the course the Goverment had adopted, both in respect to their Coercion Acts and the Land Act, incidentally putting forward a strong claim for compensation on behalf of the Irish landlords. In conclusion, he declared that though the present Premier had a larger majority behind him than any Prime Minister of the present century, he had managed the affairs of Ireland in such a way that the only forces in operation were coercion, outrage, and spoliation. Throughout the Government had thought more of the unity of their party than the salvation of the country, and he called upon the Premier to recognise that he might have a higher function than that of being a mere elastic band for keeping a disunited party together, and at all hazards, so far as his party was concerned, to maintain law and order.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre maintained that the Government had neither exhibited delay nor precipitation in the application of coercion, and claimed that the Land Act was not a concession to agitation, but was a measure to which the Government had all along been pledged. Mr. Gray continued the debate until nearly two o'clock, when the adjournment of the debate was moved by Mr. Sexton and agreed to, Lord Hartington giving notice that at 4.30 next day the Premier would move the usual resolution postponing the consideration of motions until the orders of the day were concluded.

Mr. Hibbert obtained leave to bring in a Bill consolidating enactments relating to municipal governments in England and Wales; and Lord Fitzmaurice brought in a Bill for the alteration of the areas of local Government in certain cases, and for the re-arrangement of boundaries. Mr. Warton moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881, and this was opposed by Mr. Williams and other hon. members, and refused by 51 against 18. The House rose at 2.20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

In the course of the brief half-hour's sitting in this House the Lord Chancellor brought in a Bill to consolidate and amend the Acts relating to married women in England and Ireland—a measure which is the result of the deliberations of the Select Committee of the Commons which considered the matter last session. Replying to Lord Delawarr, Lord Granville repeated what he stated a week ago in answer to Lord Salisbury, that the papers relating to Egypt could not properly be made public. He, however, patted his Lordship on the back for his laudable desire for information, and promised the papers at the earliest convenient moment. As to Tunis, he added that the Government had not been formally asked to recognise the Bardo Treaty, and that they had thought it undesirable to show hostility to the undoubted interests of France in Tunis, though they had carefully preserved the rights and privileges which they had obtained by their treaty engagements.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

Quiet, almost wearily, the sitting opened in the House of Commons. Mr. Warton, undaunted by his defeat in the small hours of the morning, when his motion for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Welsh Closing Act was rejected, of course raised a laugh by his intimation that he would ask for leave a second time. On giving notice of his intention to challenge the Central Asian policy of the Government, Mr. Cowen next received a warm Opposition cheer. Upon the subjects of the Russian advance, the incidence of the income-tax, the Sultan's sovereignty in Egypt, and the Channel Tunnel, questions were now severally put; and, somewhat to the satisfaction of the curious, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff was successful in eliciting from the Premier some information as to the so-called "mission" of Mr. Errington. Mr. Errington, it was said, had gone to Rome of his own motive. His services were volunteered, and only accepted by the Government in the belief that the information which he gleaned at the Vatican might be of use to the Roman Catholic portion of Her Majesty's subjects. Thus far gratified in his efforts to arrive at a knowledge of the Government's real or quasi-secrets, Sir Henry Wolff was still disposed to probe Her Majesty's Ministers, and therefore, after the Premier had moved the postponement of notices of motion until after the adjourned debate on the Address, and Baron de Worms had thereupon renewed his appeal for a day for the consideration of the persecution of the Jews in Russia, Sir Henry, with a touch of irony, asked whether no opportunity would be given in the debate on the Address for the consideration of matters not solely relating to Ireland. To the Government the question seemed to come as a mere sarcasm which did not call for reply, but on Mr. Gorst rising to suggest that the gravity of affairs at the Transvaal was such as to deserve some consideration from the House, and Sir Walter Barttellot, in a similar strain, expressing the opinion that the suffering agriculturists needed attention, hon. members began to form visions of interminable discussion on every conceivable subject dealt with or not dealt with in the Address. To all these demands, however, the Premier had practically one reply, and that was either directly or indirectly to the effect that to some extent the matter was in the hands of the House. It was certainly desirable that the debate on the Address should be brought to a close that night, in which case the subjects referred to could be discussed on the report next day. As to the Jewish persecutions, he was distinctly of opinion that harm would be done and not good by any expression of opinion on the part of the House.

The motion of the Premier having been carried after some further conversation, Mr. Sexton resumed the adjourned debate on the Address. The ex-prisoner under the Coercion Act spoke with a moderation of voice and gesture which, taken together with the great earnestness with which he is distinguished, intensified rather than diminished the asperity of many of his utterances. Quietly, and with many gleams of sarcasm, he poured the vials of his indignation upon Mr. Forster and the Government generally, describing the Chief Secretary as a clumsy commonplace Cromwell, who only failed to act as Cromwell did for lack of the requisite genius. He condemned the whole policy of the Government, with many references to the curse of alien rule, and declaring that the Land Act would not satisfy the agrarian desires of the people of Ireland. He wound up by stating that if the Government wished to put an end to the functions of the so-called "No-Rent" manifesto, they would do so by withdrawing the unconstitutional weapons which they were using against the Irish people.

On the close of Mr. Sexton's two hours' speech no one offered to continue the discussion. This was evidently a surprise to many hon. members, and the Parnellites, who were present in comparative force—being, with the exception of seven or eight Conservatives, the sole occupants of the Opposition benches—saw with delight the prospect of a division in which, though they were certain to be worsted, they would make a comparatively good show. The fact proved that they mustered 30 against the 98 majority of the Government, and with the announcement of this by the tellers, they expressed their satisfaction by a loud cheer. On the main question of the adoption of the Address, they again challenged a division, but the motion was carried by 87 against 22.

Sir John Hay then called attention to the murder of Captain Brownrigg; and, after some sympathetic remarks by Sir C. Dilke, who promised to lay papers on the table, Mr. G. Bentinck complained that no remonstrance had been addressed to the French Government in the matter. Mr. Trevelyan replied that the French Government repudiated the allegation that the dhow was a French vessel, or had any right to carry the French flag, and said that under the circumstances he did not see what remonstrance could be made in the matter. After the reply the House, which for a time had been sitting without a quorum, was counted out at 9.25 on the motion of Mr. Warton.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday.

The Speaker took the chair at 12.10.

The report on the Address having been brought up,

Sir H. Wolff wished to ask the Government a few questions on some points alluded to in the Queen's Speech that had not been referred to in the course of the debate. He asked what reforms were being

carried out in Turkey and in Asia, and what part the Government took in pressing the reforms on the Turkish Government. The Government must have a difficulty in doing so, inasmuch as Lord Dufferin was an Irish landlord; and it must be difficult for him to ask the Turkish Government to carry out reforms in Asia which were equally required in Ireland. The same species of arbitrary rule which was deprecated in Asia was being carried out in Ireland. (Opposition cheers.) He complained also that no reform had been carried out in Cyprus, which was still as much under the despotism of the High Commissioner as when the Government took office. But what he more particularly wished to get information on was the most extraordinary conduct of the Government with regard to its relations with the Vatican. He asked whether or not the communications on matters connected with the Vatican were on record at the Foreign Office. If there was no record there was a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government to conduct negotiations with the Vatican in an unconstitutional manner and to keep them secret from Parliament. He had no objection to relations with the Vatican; on the contrary he thought there should be a proper understanding with the Pope on matters of common interest, but the Government had no right to abstain from putting on record the communications carried on so that Parliament might not have access to them. He maintained that Mr. Errington's mission was much more formal a matter than the Government would allow. He asked whether Mr. Errington's expenses were paid by the Government.

Sir C. DILKE repeated what he stated the other day, that no remuneration was paid to Mr. Errington.

Sir H. WOLFF asserted that his expenses were paid either out of the public funds or the secret service money. He went on to ask what were Mr. Errington's communications with the Pope in relation to the state of Ireland, and in concluding suggested that the Government should confirm Mr. Errington's mission in a semi-official capacity, or propose an Act of Parliament by which regular diplomatic relations could be carried on with the Pope.

Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT condemned the foreign policy of the Government in the East. With regard to Greece, he maintained that the cession of Thessaly might have been effected sooner, and without injury to Greece; but the Government had caused Greece to get only three-fifths of the territory promised, and to incur a debt of seven millions of money. The Government had also destroyed the Greek Government, and perhaps the Greek monarchy as well. He pointed out that the European concert that the Government boasted of was broken up, and maintained that the cause of all the troubles of the Government in the East was their determination to reverse the policy of the late Government. He referred to the notorious relations between Sir C. Dilke and M. Gambetta. The influence of M. Gambetta was the cause of the trouble in Egypt and Tunis, and twice had that influence led England on to the brink of war. M. Gambetta, before his resignation, was able to drag Sir C. Dilke and the Prime Minister, in spite of the remonstrances of Earl Granville, to follow him in a policy of active intervention in Egypt, and to drift away from the wise policy of alliance with the Porte. Troops were prepared in France for intervention, as a threat to the Egyptian Government. He went on to denounce the Russian Government as far worse than the Turkish Government, stating that the Sultan could walk about unarmed and unprotected, which was more than could be said of the Czar and the Prime Minister. He regarded the struggle with Russia for the possession of India as close at hand, and asked how the Government were to meet it, with their troops shut up in Ireland and the Transvaal. He promised to give Sir C. Dilke a treat on some future day by reciting his answers to questions on Tunis and Central Asia. He also asked the Government to revert to a frank and friendly policy with Turkey, and to give up their hankering after French Republicanism—the shiftless and unstable Republic. The foreign policy of the Government was a sham designed on the part of the Prime Minister to take the place of the splendid alliance and combination with the European Powers that Lord Beaconsfield got for them, and which they, with a wantonness never surpassed, threw away. Reverting to the condition of Central Asia, he described the advance of the Russians towards India as rapid and alarming, being 200 or 300 miles nearer Sarakhs than the Government represented. The Russians were now practically masters of Herat—they were in possession of the most fertile territory in Central Asia; and had conquered the only military tribe between them and Afghanistan. The Russians could put two million men in the field at once, and how could England meet them? This country could make no alliance with the barbarous and cruel Government of Russia. (Hear, hear.) He read the remarks of the Prime Minister against the Bulgarian atrocities, and compared them with his honeyed words and equivocal sympathy regarding the Jews. The policy of the Government was one of bullying the weak and truckling to the strong. He maintained that the Government had absolutely failed in the government of Ireland. The Land Bill was pure, unadulterated communism. He, however, admired the Irish people for refusing to be bribed as well as coerced.

Sir C. DILKE, in replying to the remarks made on the foreign policy of the Government, observed that Mr. Ashmead Bartlett had given them a sufficient treat that day, and maintained that when his answers to questions were read in full, they would be found to have been accurate when given, and to be consistent and intelligible on the whole. He mentioned that the Russian papers from which the last speaker had quoted sometimes spoke of the insanity of "Sir Ashmead Bartlett." (Laughter.) He went on to explain that the reforms in Cyprus had been delayed by the taking of the census. He denied that any official communications had been made with the Vatican, and that Mr. Errington was paid for his services in Rome.

Sir H. WOLFF said he merely stated that Mr. Errington's expenses were paid.

Sir CHARLES DILKE denied the allegation, and asked on whose authority it had been made. He could only repeat, in regard to Mr. Errington's mission, that the information conveyed through him was not of a diplomatic character, and was not such as should be communicated to Parliament. No negotiations, proposal, or request had been made by Mr. Errington to the Vatican. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett alleged that Her Majesty's Government encouraged the Greek Government to mobilise its army, and always represented this country as on the brink of war, though the war never occurred. As to the Greek army, he repeated for the fifth or sixth time that, so far from encouraging mobilisation, the English Government was the last of all the Governments of Europe to withdraw its objections to the mobilisation of the Greek army. As to the allegation that the present Government were reversing the policy of the late Government he quoted the remarks of Lord Salisbury the other day to the effect that the present Government had simply been carrying out the policy laid down by the late Government, and generally expressed concurrence with the principles that fell from Lord Granville in regard to Egypt. So far was he (Sir C. Dilke) from having induced Lord Granville to accept the joint Note, that it was despatched before he saw it, having been in France at the time. There was no difference between the Prime Minister and Lord Granville on the joint Note. As to the statement that the Government troubles in Egypt arose from reversing the foreign policy of the late Government, he maintained that their troubles arose from following the policy of their predecessors. In Afghanistan and South Africa, where the Government had reversed the policy of their predecessors, they had no serious troubles. (Ministerial cheers.) The Government always believed that the concert of Europe afforded a valuable means of settling matters, and thought it a safer, more prudent, and wiser means of dealing with European questions, and that it was in no sense opposed to the interests of the country, which, on the whole, was always found to be in the maintenance of European peace. (Hear, hear.) The Government did not despair of seeing the concert used in Egyptian affairs, for they had already successfully applied it to the settlement of difficult questions by peaceful means. He regretted the way in which Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett referred to the Prime Minister's remarks on the Russian persecution of the Jews, and quoted the observations of Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords in support of Her Majesty's Government not interfering with the internal affairs of Russia. He also quoted past precedents of official interference on the part of England in the affairs of foreign Powers, and maintained that it had never done good.

Mr. RITCHIE blamed the Government for not providing a better supply of water for London. He contended that the action of the Government in this matter was a mere subterfuge for evading the question. In 1880 a Parliamentary Committee recommended that without waiting for a municipality a water authority should be created; and now the Government deliberately postponed dealing with the question to an indefinite period. The Government had put forward a political programme that was sufficient for one session, without creating a municipality for London. Even if a corporation were formed this year, it would be next year before that body could submit a Bill, which would then probably be the subject of much discussion. Moreover, the value of the water companies' shares was rising 1½ millions per annum.

Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT admitted the importance of the subject, and expressed a hope that the Bill to create a municipality in London would be passed this year. The late Home Secretary tried the experiment of negotiating with the water companies and failed. He never understood that the late Home Secretary wished to press his proposal on the people of London. That proposal was submitted to a Parliamentary Committee, which condemned it unanimously. The ratepayers of London must make their bargain with the water companies themselves. He (Sir William Harcourt) stated that before the Select Committee was appointed, and that Committee reported to the same effect. It was therefore necessary to create a body that could deal with the subject on behalf of the people of London. Now, on consideration during the winter, he found that the creation of a water authority raised all the questions involved in constituting a municipal body for the government of London. The Government, therefore, resolved to deal with the latter question at once. He did not think the delay would cost a farthing more. He believed that for fifteen or twenty millions sterling London could get a good water supply.

Sir R. CROSS believed that Mr. Ritchie brought forward this matter in the interests of the ratepayers, but thought the Government had always tried to evade the question. He was of opinion that some of the agreements he made with the water companies were excellent bargains, though others were one-sided; and if Sir William Harcourt had not taken up a position of hostility to the water companies, London might have had a good and cheap supply of water before now. He therefore threw upon the present Home Secretary the responsibility of the delay that had occurred.

Mr. FIRTH believed that the shares of the water companies to-day would have been worth from six to ten millions less if the late Government had never touched them.

Mr. W. H. SMITH stated that when the question was first before the Parliamentary Committee Sir William Harcourt recommended that the water supply should be entrusted to a water authority without waiting for a municipality. The Government had, therefore, failed to carry out their own recommendation. The matter was urgent, for the water companies were raising the rates in certain parts very largely, which was an additional reason why the Government should deal with it. The responsibility of the delay rested with the Home Secretary.

Mr. MACFARLANE, who complained of the collapse of the debate on the Address last night, recalled attention to the administration of Ireland, which he condemned. Loyalty was being starved out of Ireland.

Mr. MACARTNEY criticised the administration of the Land Act in Ireland.

After some remarks from Mr. M. HENRY and Mr. DAWSON,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND contended that it was impossible during the short time the Land Act had been in operation that its result could be ascertained.

At a quarter to six, when the right hon. gentleman was speaking, the debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Earl GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord BALFOUR, explained the circumstances connected with the visit of Mr. Errington to Rome, and denied that the hon. member had been entrusted with a mission to the Vatican.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The debate upon the Report on the Address was resumed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND, who continued and concluded the speech which he had begun on the previous afternoon. He was followed by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. James Lowther, and Mr. O'Connor Power; and Mr. Gladstone subsequently took part in the debate, which was again adjourned.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Lord Algernon Percy was elected on Friday last week, without opposition, M.P. for Westminster, in succession to Sir C. Russell, resigned.

Mr. Allsopp was on Thursday elected M.P. for Taunton by a majority over his Liberal opponent of 227 votes.

Mr. Dodson received on Thursday a numerous deputation which asked that some change might be made in the existing law in regard to the assessment of rates. The right hon. gentleman, in reply, said he was aware that that hardship existed to a certain extent, but he thought the intention of the Act of Parliament was that, while giving the possibility of relief to the occupier if another occupier immediately succeeded him, the parish should not lose. He promised, however, to consider the subject.

Viscount Cranbrook opened at Dover on Thursday evening the new Carlton Club. In handing over the keys to the local executive, his Lordship said England was in great danger, and it required unity on the part of the Conservatives to keep her out of difficulties. The bye-elections had indicated the feeling of the country, and all that was wanted was organisation. Speaking at a banquet which was subsequently held, Lord Cranbrook defended the constitution of the House of Lords, and condemned the foreign policy of the Government, the Colonial policy in particular being a disgrace and a failure. He criticised the Irish Ministerial policy, and said the *clôture* was un-English, and could not be permitted.

A meeting of the Conservatives of Enfield was held on Wednesday night. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P., who stated, in the first instance, that his colleague was absent through ill-health, proceeded to say that the Government had been in office eighteen months without bringing about a satisfactory state of things. In the recent municipal elections Conservatives had invariably been returned, and in the Parliamentary contests that had lately taken place Conservative candidates had in almost all cases been successful. It was not simply due to the fact that during the year a large addition had been made to the Conservative registration list, but in a great measure to the disappointment felt by many former supporters of Mr. Gladstone, many of whom felt convinced that they were wrong in turning out Lord Beaconsfield at the last general election and establishing the present Prime Minister. There was not a quarter of the globe in which they were not in a worse position now than they were two years ago. Ireland most unquestionably was in a worse state—in fact, it had not been so bad at any previous period during the present century. He did not think the present Government were entirely responsible for this, but it appeared to be the severest possible criticism of the particular line of action they had adopted. As to foreign policy, Mr. Gladstone had always said that there was one way and one way only of dealing with the great Eastern question, and of adequately protecting British interests, and this was by acting in all matters of difficulty through the concert of Europe and the intervention of the Great Powers. The Prime Minister blamed Lord Beaconsfield because he chose to protect by the force of English arms and an English fleet the British interests in the East. The theory of Mr. Gladstone was absolutely nonsense. It was the duty of the Government in its foreign policy to protect the interests of the British working classes. The new rules of procedure were regarded by the Conservative party with the greatest suspicion, as they feared they would be used for the purpose of silencing the House when the Government thought it expedient. The noble Lord concluded by saying that as long as England was united no one in the world could lightly attack English interests. (Cheers.)

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

Speaking at a banquet given by the East Surrey Conservative Association at Balham, Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, replying to the toast of his own name, coupled with the Conservative cause, said:—We may have been reminded of occasions upon which we, supported not merely by our party followers, but supported by that true English spirit which we were able to evoke amongst a section of our opponents, were able to check the power of the majority and the power of the Ministry in Parliament, and, taking our stand upon Christian principles—which, I hope, the Conservative party will never forget as the corner-stone and foundation-stone—we have been able to arrest an evil and a scandal which would otherwise have been painful and disgraceful to our House. (Cheers.) A reference has been made to a measure which has been proposed to us by the Prime Minister for altering the procedure of the House of Commons. That is a very important matter. (Hear, hear.) Nobody who has had experience of that House will say that that is not a subject that legitimately demands consideration. Nobody will deny that a great increase of business has taken place in that House, and that a greater number of members take part in the conduct of that business, and that in the interests of the business of the House we should from time to time reconsider points in our arrangements, and see whether it is not possible to improve our system of public business. But when you come to proposals which are likely, which are almost certain, to limit the rights of minorities, and to restrict the freedom of debate, depend upon it you are touching upon very dangerous and delicate ground—(cheers)—and when you see that the independent members of the House of Commons, who had claimed and who were prepared to exercise our privilege of giving independent votes upon the questions submitted to them by the Prime Minister, are threatened and also coerced by a mandate which comes from the Central Association of Birmingham—putting the matter, not upon the ground of facilitating the general conduct of business, but upon the ground that it is necessary that certain measures announced by the Prime Minister should be passed, and that unless freedom of debate was restricted those measures might not be carried—it behoves us to look about us to consider whether we are really to be the servants of those Birmingham gentlemen. (Loud cheers.) If Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington are coming forward in the House of Commons to tell us, on the authority of their own responsibility as experienced and judicious members of Parliament, that our rules require revision, and that they propose certain measures in order to enable the House of Commons the better to accomplish its duties, that is one thing—(cheers)—and we should listen respectfully to what they have to say—(hear, hear)—but I feel that upon one point there will be a steady refusal, on the part of the minority, to sacrifice and surrender their rights. (Loud cheers.) You have in the House of Commons an institution glorious in its history and still honoured and respected by the people of this country. (Renewed cheers.) Depend upon it that if the members of that House will do their duty, they will not only maintain the respect in which the House is held by the people, but they will furnish to the country a great and material support, a barrier against the advance of wild democracy. (Cheers.) It would, indeed, be a bad time for this country if it ever came to pass that our best men were to say, as they say on the other side of the Atlantic, that politics are odious to them, and that they will not engage in party struggles. Do not conduct your party struggles in a manner that will disgust them, but if you fight, fight fairly and fight boldly and honourably. I feel it is of the greatest importance to the country that we should have a Government in which we have confidence. We desire, of course, that the Government should be formed of persons who represent our own opinions; but still if we see that those who compose it are men of patriotic sentiment, of ability, of firmness, and men who know what they are about, and are pursuing a steady policy, we can at least have the comfort of knowing there is something for us to fall back on. There can be no doubt whatever that when the present Government was brought into power the impression which prevailed in the country was, that it was a Government which was fairly deserving of that character, but I think every man who has watched and watches the development of public opinion will say that within the period of eighteen months public opinion as to the strength and character of the Government has greatly changed. There is no longer the confidence—there is no longer the prestige which attends success. They have tried several measures, they have tried bold and adventurous and rash measures, but have they succeeded? (No, no.) How have they dealt, for instance, with Ireland? I need not point out to you that they have set aside the rules of political economy with contempt, that they have set aside a great many principles which we considered to be the foundation of the law of property and order. (Cheers.) They have done this—I do not say intentionally—God forbid. I do not say that they were prepared for the results to which their policy has led, but it is precisely because they were not prepared themselves—they have brought about results which they would have shrunk from anticipating in the first instance—that we have lost confidence in their power of dealing with this complicated and difficult question. They tell you that they did not mean many of the things which they are charged with. But the language used by Ministers must be judged, not by the meaning in the mind of the man who spoke it, but by the impression it produces upon those who heard it. (Cheers.) I dare say that Mr. Gladstone, whenever he thinks it fit to speak, will say, and say with truth, that in his mind the language he used about Home Rule the other day had not the meaning, and was not intended to give the impression, which it has given. But what is the good of that? If the impression has been made—and it has been made—the mischief is largely done. He may disown and disclaim as he pleases, but the words have been spoken and they will not be forgotten, and they will be twisted by those whose interest it is to twist, and emphasised by those whose interest it is to emphasise—(cheers)—and they will bear evil fruit and cause great suffering and distress. Depend upon it you have not seen the end of the troubles which are commonly caused by the unwise expressions of sympathy of English statesmen, and taken up in a sense leading people to believe they would have the encouragement and sympathy of the people of England in opposing all the laws of honesty. (Cheers.) I say that under these circumstances it behoves Conservatives generally to be alive and to be doing. I know very well we have a heavy fight before us in the House of Commons. We shall be very much abused by a great number of people, because it may be that we hesitate to give to the Ministry all the facilities they demand, but we shall endeavour to do our duty.

CONVOCATION.

(Continued from page 103.)

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

On Tuesday both Houses of the Convocation of the Southern Province assembled at Westminster for the despatch of business. The two Houses met together in the Jerusalem Chamber, and proceeded in procession to Henry VII.'s Chapel, where the Holy Communion was celebrated. On returning from the service at mid-day the two Houses separated.

UPPER HOUSE.—TUESDAY.

The Upper House met in the board-room of Queen Anne's Bounty-office, his Grace the Archbishop presiding. There were present the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Bishop of Exeter, the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Ely,

the Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Rochester, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Llandaff, the Bishop of St. Albans, the Bishop of Norwich, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of St. Asaph, and the Bishop of Bangor.

THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR. GREEN.

The Bishop of Lincoln presented a petition from the English Church Union with reference to the Rev. Mr. Green's imprisonment, for his disobedience of the Privy Council. The petition set forth that the prisoner was a man of blameless character, who had been in prison for nearly twelve months "ostensibly for contempt of Court, but really because, with very many others, having regard to his ordination promises, he cannot accept decisions of the Privy Council which override plain words of the Prayer-Book, as received by the Church and realm." The petition held that Mr. Green was treated with great injustice, and urged that not only should their Lordships take steps to obtain his unconditional release, but should consider how best to obviate the mischievous effects of the Public Worship Regulation Act.

The House negatived the proposal to at once discuss the petition.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The Bishop of Lichfield presented a petition from the English Church Union, praying the House to oppose any proposals to alter the laws which restrained marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

CATHEDRAL REFORM.

A conversation arose on the report of the Lower House with regard to Cathedral reform.

The Archbishop pointed out that a Royal Commission was sitting on the same subject, so that he should be unable to give his sanction to the conclusion of the Lower House *en bloc*.

On the motion of the Bishop of Lincoln it was ultimately resolved that the Lower House should be thanked for its report, and that their Lordships should express the opinion that the report, when laid before the Royal Commission, would have due weight.

PROPOSED BOARD OF MISSIONS.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presented a series of resolutions for the formation of a board of missions. The Archbishops and Bishops were to be members, the two Irish Archbishops, the Scotch Primus, and representatives from all the dioceses—the metropolitan dioceses sending each two clergy and two laymen, the others one of each.

The Archbishop said the plan hitherto pursued had been for the two great missionary societies to refer to the person holding the position of Archbishop questions upon which a judgment had to be formed; and although he thought that a person holding the position of Archbishop would be likely to form an impartial judgment, yet he thought it would be of advantage if a board could be formed which would command the confidence of both societies. He could not but remind their Lordships that one of the societies, or the members of it, looked with some jealousy upon Convocation, and the persons composing it would not be likely to surrender their position. But he was not without hope that, if it were seen that such a board was really representative of the Church of England in its various shades, it would gradually acquire confidence even in a case where such confidence had been refused. Then it must be known that there was a great deal of jealousy between the two great societies, and this went to the extent that they were each strangely ignorant of the other's proceedings, and each was ignorant of the spirit which animated the other. If a central board could bring them to act more cordially with each other a great service would be done. His Grace deprecated a proposal for making joint collections, and held that each society should be left to do its work of money-raising in its own way; but he suggested there were many ways in which the societies could work together for good. He was glad to see an indication of a lessened degree of the feeling to which he had referred, and this was in regard to the Bishopric of Japan. At one time it seemed hopeless to reconcile the views of the two societies upon this subject, but by the exercise of patience they were brought to agree upon the foundation of the bishopric. Now, a really good and representative board might work to lessen these difficulties, and there were other respects in which it might work—namely, in dealing with the difficulties which arose in different parts of the world by the collision of English colonial Bishops and American Bishops, and his Grace remarked that these misunderstandings were enhanced through there being, he was sorry to say, in America as here, certain Church newspapers which seemed to delight in mischief. If the proposed board could deal with these misunderstandings it would be doing a most useful service.

The Bishops then held a conversational discussion as to the numbers which should be upon the proposed board, and objection was offered to the numbers being too great. It was ultimately agreed that a joint committee of both Houses should be formed to meet a like committee of the northern province.

The House then adjourned.

LOWER HOUSE.—Tuesday.

The Prolocutor took the chair shortly after twelve o'clock. Mr. F. Cobb, the actuary, made the preconisation, there being a good attendance of members.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS.

Sir Frederick Ouseley gave notice of the following resolution, to the effect that, in view of the objections made by persons not well affected to the Church to a trustworthy religious census, and the erroneous statistics published on the subject, the President and Bishops of the Upper House be requested to take the earliest opportunity of obtaining more accurate returns of the number of persons belonging to the Church of England within this province; and, further, that they be requested to communicate with the Provincial Synod of York.

IN MEMORIAM.

The Prolocutor: Before I call on members who may have petitions to present to do so, I wish to say a few words. The House is aware that since I have had the distinguished honour of presiding over the debates of this House the practice which was so ably carried out by my predecessor of referring to those members we have lost, whether by death, resignation, or promotion, has been discontinued. It was an excellent custom, and extremely well done by him, but I felt I was not equal to continue it, believing it was as well not to do so. It is not done in the great public assembly over the way, and I found many members who would be glad if it were not continued in this House; but, at the same time, I cannot help referring to the loss we have sustained by the death of one who was an active member of our committees, and who was of the greatest help to my predecessor. I allude to the late Mr. Prebendary Gibbs—(hear, hear)—who has gone to his rest full of work and full of honour, and he was one who gained the esteem and respect of all those who knew him. I will not say more, but I did not care to pass over him, who, although not so eloquent as some of our members, was one of our most useful members. (Hear, hear.)

THE REV. MR. GREEN.

Canon Gregory presented the following petition from the English Church Union:—

That the Rev. Sidney Faithorn Green, rector of St. John's, Miles Platting, a priest of blameless character, earnest in every good work and entirely possessing the confidence of his people, has now been in prison for nearly twelve months, ostensibly for contempt of court, but really because in common with very many others, having regard to his ordination promise, he cannot accept decisions of the Privy Council which override the plain words of the Prayer-Book as received by this Church and realm. That Mr. Green's case is of the more serious importance because it implies the competence of the Privy Council to adjudicate in the last resort upon the doctrine and spiritual discipline of the Church of England—a competence which was synodically repudiated in the case of "Essays and Reviews," and is of greater injustice because a large majority of the clergy, including some of the highest dignitaries of the Church who do not conform to the rulings of the Privy Council, are not even threatened with hostile proceedings. That your petitioners protest against the confusion of the real merits of the case and the injustice with which Mr. Green is being treated by its being represented that his imprisonment is merely the result of his unwillingness to submit to episcopal authority, whereas his detention in prison is caused by his inability to acknowledge any other than canonical authority in his Bishop and by the persistent intolerance of a certain section within the Church of England. That your petitioners therefore earnestly beg that immediate steps may be taken by your rev. house to procure Mr. Green's unconditional release, and to put an end to a scandal which, in addition to the injustice inflicted on Mr. Green, seriously endangers the existing relations of Church and State. That experience has justified the representations made by your petitioners to your rev. House, at the time of the framing of the Public Worship Regulation Act, as to the evils it was calculated to inflict upon the Church; and your petitioners therefore humbly pray your rev. House to consider what steps can be taken to obviate the mischievous effect of that Act, the passing of which has given so great an impetus to the unhappy prosecutions which at present vex and harass the Church.

Sir J. Philips presented a petition in favour of the unconditional release of Mr. Green.

DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Canon Butler presented the following petition:—

The humble petition of the English Church Union. Showeth—That the doctrine and discipline of the Church of Christ as to holy matrimony has ever regarded the oneness of husband and wife as being of such nature as to place on an equality the several corresponding degrees of relationship by consanguinity and by affinity in everything relating to the lawfulness or unlawfulness of marriage by either of the parties after the decease of the other; so that, for example, a widower is no more free to marry his sister by marriage than his sister by blood. That this doctrine and discipline are expressly maintained by the Church of England in the table of prohibited degrees, ordered by the Canons of 1604 to be hung up openly in every Church; which table declares that all those related as therein set forth (including a man and his wife's sister) "are forbidden in Scripture to marry together." That in her Marriage Office the Church warns all who come to be married that if they are "coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow," they are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful." That notwithstanding this, attempts have for many years past been persistently made, and are about to be renewed in this present session of Parliament, to legalise the union of a man with his deceased wife's sister in contravention of the law of God as maintained by the Church; thus seeking to place the law of the Church and the law of the realm in open opposition. Which attempt, moreover, if successful, would make precarious the whole law and principle of affinity in respect of marriage, and would secretly strike at the truth of the oneness of husband and wife as declared in the Word of God.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Hockin presented a petition from the diocese of Truro praying a better distribution of the funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Queen Anne's Bounty-office.

Canon Wilde presented a petition from the diocese of Lincoln, praying for the reform of patronage and discipline.

ELECTION OF PROCTORS.

The House then entered into a discussion of the report of the committee on the election of proctors, which was introduced by Sub-Dean Clements.

At its rising the House adjourned until Wednesday.

UPPER HOUSE.—Wednesday.

Their Lordships met in the board-room of Queen Anne's Bounty-office—the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding.

THE PLURALITIES ACTS.

The Bishop of Exeter brought up a report from a joint committee on these Acts, and, stating that it was not his intention to ask the House to discuss the matter at that moment, he moved that the Lower House be requested to take the report into consideration as soon as possible,

This was seconded and carried.

The Bishop of Exeter, in the absence of the Bishop of Truro, presented a petition from a conference of the clergy and laity in the western diocese, asking if the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the Board of Queen Anne's Bounty, and the trustees of other ecclesiastical property could not be empowered to give greater facilities and larger discretion than they at present possessed, to enable them to provide, by loan or otherwise, for the growing wants of the Church. The Bishop explained that the petitioners desired to have money lent for the erection of mission chapels, which were found necessary in the diocese of Truro, and stated that the want of a like agency had been felt in the diocese over which he himself presided.

The Bishop of London explained that the action of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and of the Board of Queen Anne was limited by Act of Parliament, and that no change could be made in their action except by Act of Parliament. It would, he thought, be considered unadvisable to seek to make changes in the law. At present the money lent by these bodies required full security, and the clergymen who borrowed the money for the building of mission halls had to take the responsibility of repaying the money, for there would be a mortgage upon the benefice. In further explanation he stated that there were necessarily expenses in connection with the administration of the Bounty, for a staff of clerks had to be kept, not only to deal with the accounts, but to deal with the great amount of correspondence with the clergy.

The subject then dropped.

HOODS.

The Bishop of Lincoln brought forward a report on the 58th Canon, which, among other things, provides that ministers who are graduates should wear the hoods of their degrees in Church ministrations. The report proposed that the canon should have the addition, that non-graduates, students of a theological college, who had kept the stated term of residence, whose moral and religious character had been certified, and had passed satisfactorily through the requisite examination at a diocesan college, should be allowed to wear a special hood, which should be the same for all the theological colleges of the Church, but that each such college should, at the discretion of the ordinary, be allowed to introduce in it some slight variation.

On the motion of the Bishop of Lincoln the report was received and was ordered to be sent down to the Lower House, with the request that this matter should be considered.

THE IMPRISONED PRIEST.

The Bishop of Lincoln then dealt with the subject of Mr. Green's imprisonment, which, he said, had distressed all the members of their Lordships' House, and which they would all be glad to see at an end. He deeply sympathised with Mr. Green and also with the difficulty which prevented that clergyman from delivering himself from durance—a difficulty created by his being considered as a hero, and almost as a saint. It was very difficult for a man who had been raised to such a pedestal to bring himself down to a lower level, and, therefore, he was to be sympathised with, for he was unable, in face of the position given to him by his friends, to make submission to his Bishop. No doubt this imprisonment would do good, as Mr. Green would probably be the last clergyman imprisoned for non-compliance with the decisions of an Ecclesiastical Court, but while this was said the Convocation should review the position brought about by this imprisonment, and should take steps to endeavour to bring to an end the painful state of affairs at present existing. The learned Prelate stated that he had no sympathy with the position taken up by Mr. Green regarding his conscientious objection to conform to the law, and he held that Mr. Green's conscience was in error in resisting the Bishop whom he had sworn to obey. His Lordship was also opposed to the position taken up by Mr. Green's supporters in their objections to the Ecclesiastical Courts, and said that if these Courts were improved in the direction to meet those objections the persons who supported Mr. Green would object to the very things which they now proposed. Holding that Mr. Green's imprisonment was an anomaly in the nineteenth century, and regarding it as impossible that Mr. Green, if released, could be otherwise than pledged to acknowledge the canonical authority of his Bishop, his Lordship suggested that the House should join in an address to the Crown praying for Mr. Green's release. By doing this their Lordships would not be committing themselves as sponsors for Mr. Green's opinions, but they would be acting as the ministers of mercy. He should not submit any motion to the House, as it was understood that the Bishop of Peterborough would propose one, and perhaps the House, by the means of such a motion, would find the way to release Mr. Green.

The Bishop of Peterborough, after expressing his pleasure at hearing the fatherly words of the last speaker, concurred in the expressions of pain at Mr. Green's continued imprisonment uttered by the Bishop of Lincoln, but the Bishops should not be deterred by this sense of pain from the assertion of broad and general principles, and nothing would be more dangerous than if the House were led by sympathy with Mr. Green, to deal with this matter other than on broad principles. It must be apparent that Mr. Green could not be set free from the action of the law because he had conscientious objections to obey the law. No man could be held free to disregard the law because he disagreed with it, for if there was any validity in such an objection there would be an end of law, and, as "conscientious scruples" on the part of the "Peculiar People" or of anti-vaccinators were disregarded, it was not to be supposed that Mr. Green could be released from his duty on the score that he had conscientious scruples in obeying. His Lordship held that if there had been no other way of compelling obedience to the law than by the imprisonment of Mr. Green it would have been a proper step to have taken to obtain an alteration in the law. But there was another remedy against Mr. Green without resorting to imprisonment, and of this other remedy the promoters of the suit had distinctly refused to avail themselves. This remedy was to be found in the Public Worship Regulation Act—a measure which, though it was not, by the action of Parliament, what the Bishops proposed, yet it laid down that a clergyman for an offence against the ritual of the Church should not be treated as a criminal, but should, after having three years to consider his position, be liable to deprivation. This was the course which should have been taken in the case of Mr. Green, and there would have been peace for three years under the Public Worship Regulation Act, at the end of which time he could have been proceeded against for deprivation if he did not conform to the law of the Church. His Lordship moved—

That this House sympathises with the general feeling of pain and disapproval with which the long imprisonment of the Rev. S. F. Green is regarded, and is of opinion that the promoters of the suit against Mr. Green, in resorting to the older and severer process *de contumacio faciendo*, have taken a step unnecessary for the vindication of the authority of the law, and which was in excess of the latest legislation on the subject of ritual uniformity.

The expression of these opinions would, his Lordship said, show that the imprisonment of Mr. Green had the disapproval of their Lordships, and it might tend to a practical result in leading the promoters of the suit, the only persons who could move for the release of Mr. Green, to take the necessary steps for his release. He gave the promoters of the suit all credit for desiring to vindicate truth and law, but he thought they had taken an unfortunate way of doing it.

The Bishop of Winchester seconded the motion.

The Bishop of London, replying to the allegations of those outside as to the prosecution of Mr. Green being under the Public Worship Regulation Act, said the Bishops in the legislation they proposed sought to abolish imprisonment for ritual offences.

After speeches by other members of the House,

The Archbishop assented to the view of the Bishop of Peterborough, that it was unwise for the promoters of the suit to proceed against Mr. Green for contempt and so causing his imprisonment. His Grace examined the various cases which had arisen, and then, touching upon Mr. Green's scruples in obeying the course of law in the decisions upon the excesses of ritual, pointed out that Mr. Green could find plenty of authority in the action of his ecclesiastical superiors for conforming with the law; inasmuch as the two Convocations of Canterbury and York had agreed to resolutions opposing any alteration from the ritual of the Church, sanctioned by long usage, until sanctioned by Convocation. The Bishops of the Church from all parts of the world in conference at Lambeth had agreed to the same principles and views. Now, if Mr. Green disliked one authority as being opposed to his principles, here were plenty of authorities to which he could find it consistent to bow, as the authorities who had thus spoken and pronounced formed the strongest body of ecclesiastical authority which could be conceived. It was hard to understand the sort of High Churchism of ecclesiastically-minded men who could place themselves in opposition to those declarations of the Church on the plea of dealing with the construction of an Act of Parliament. The spurious High Churchism of these persons could hardly be maintained in the light of day, and therefore, notwithstanding all the noise which had been made, notwithstanding all the reported speeches in different parts of the country on behalf of Mr. Green—speeches mostly made by the same persons—he was in hopes that a common-sense view of the matter might be taken by the promoters of the suit, and that steps would be taken to put an end to the present painful position of affairs.

Other Bishops spoke, and after a debate of seven hours, the resolution, amended in a slight form, was carried, there being two dissentients, one of whom (the Bishop of Lichfield) was in favour of proceeding by a memorial to the Crown.

The House then adjourned.

LOWER HOUSE.—Wednesday.

ECCLESIASTICAL JUDICATION.

Archdeacon Earl presented a petition from the rural deans of the Archdeaconry of Totnes, the prayer of which was:—

That your petitioners, being convinced that no settlement of ecclesiastical judication will be satisfactory which does not secure synodical approval, humbly pray your very reverend House to take such steps as you shall in your wisdom think fit to obtain full and ample opportunities for the discussion of the forthcoming report of the Royal Commission before any legislative action shall be taken thereon.

CLERICAL TESTIMONIALS.

Archdeacon Earl also presented a petition signed by the clergy of the rural deanery of Moreton Hampstead, to the following effect:—

The undersigned members of the chapter of the deanery of Moreton Hampstead, in the county of Devon, do respectfully submit that in our opinion (*a*) the present wording of the form of clerical testimonials requires amendment; (*b*) that we especially desire to see an alteration in the practice of asking the clergy to act upon mere hearsay evidence where the characters of their brethren are at stake; and (*c*) we wish to record our opinion that where institution to a benefice is not in question, references to three beneficed clergymen might advantageously be substituted for the present signatures to a printed form.

THE REVISED VERSION.

Archdeacon Allen presented the following *gravamen*:—

Feeling that the true doctrine of the Trinity cannot receive support from the words of the Authorised Version, 1 John v. 7, and that it is painful to read "beasts" in Rev. ix., and that "flock" ought to be read in John x. 16, and that there are passages (Matt. vi. 25, ix. 17; Luke xvi. 8 and 9, xxiii. 15; Acts xxi. 15; Rom. viii. 20; 1 Cor. iv. 4, ix. 29; 2 Cor. viii. 1; 1 Peter iii. 21), where the Revised Version rightly gives clearness to the teachings of the New Testament, their Lordships the Bishops are dutifully requested to appoint a committee of sound Christian scholars, who may mark such passages of the Revised Version of the New Testament as may, without reasonable ground of offence, be read in churches in the place of what may seem to be dark or erroneous in the Authorised Version.

PRAYERS FOR CONVOCATION.

On the motion of Sir James Phillips, it was resolved that the Committee on "Bi-canonical Prayers" be requested to consider whether they should not draw up a prayer for Convocation when in session.

ARCHDEACON DENISON.

A letter was read from Archdeacon Denison, resigning all further part in committee work on account of his advanced age.

DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Canon Jeffreys moved that a *gravamen* presented by him on this subject should be made an *articulus cleri*. The *gravamen* was as follows:—

That a Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons to legalise the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife; that such a marriage would be in direct opposition to the canons of the Church; that the legalising of such a marriage would involve the clergy in many harassing difficulties; that such marriages are abhorrent to the feelings of a large majority of the men and women of England; that a law to enable men to marry a deceased wife's sister would be logically followed by a law to enable a man to marry his wife's niece; that, with the ancient limits provided by the Church with regard to marriages of affinity, the many would be made to suffer in their consciences for the sake of the few, and that the Bishops be requested to do what within them lies to prevent the Bill from becoming law.

Dean Vaughan said that he could not support the *gravamen* because he had been led to a different opinion on the matter, but after a brief discussion the *articulus cleri* was almost unanimously agreed to.

THE REV. S. F. GREEN.

Canon GREGORY presented the following *gravamen et reformandum* :—

That the Rev. S. F. Green, an exemplary clergyman, is now undergoing imprisonment on the charge of contempt of the Court presided over by Lord Penzance; that such contempt originated in Mr. Green's inability to recognise the authority and jurisdiction of that Court in regulating the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England; that the constitution and jurisdiction of this, as well as other Ecclesiastical Courts, has been matter of controversy in the Church to such an extent as to lead to the issue of a Royal Commission to examine and report thereon; that great scandal and injury to the Church has arisen from the continued and possibly life-long imprisonment of Mr. Green—a condition of things opposed to the whole tenor of modern legislation; that, pending the issue of a report from the above-named Commission, it seems to the undersigned that the liberation of Mr. Green from prison would conduce to the peace and well-being of the Church.

Reformandum :—

That their Lordships the Bishops be requested to use their best endeavours to secure the liberation from prison of the Rev. S. F. Green by a memorial to the Crown, or in such other way as to them may seem most advisable.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Canon SUMNER, in bringing forward the report of the Committee on the relations of Church and State, said that they had to settle questions vitally affecting the Church and the State, and, in the opinion of the Committee, Convocation would have shirked its duty if it had neglected to express its opinion at this crisis of the Church. They could not avoid dealing with grievous scandals in the Church, and it would be cowardly if at this crisis they did not come forward and say what would satisfy the Houses of York and Canterbury. The Committee had agreed to consider principles and not details in their report, as there was a Royal Commission sitting which would also issue a report, and if the two reports agreed in principle an arrangement might be come to as to details. There could be no more worthy object of consideration than this report, the aim of which was to bring Church and State into harmonious action; and he therefore moved that the House should take into consideration the resolutions appended to the report.

Canon BUTLER held that all the mishief that has occurred in the Church has occurred since the voice of Convocation has been suppressed and Parliament allowed to regulate Church matters, for Royal Commissions did not express the voice of the Church. Convocation had a right, as the voice of the Church in the country, to tell the country what the Church thought, and he felt that the time had come for them to do so.

Archdeacon PROTHEROE opposed the motion, on the ground that the subject had been referred to a Royal Commission.

After some discussion it was decided to take the resolutions into consideration, and the first one, which was as follows, was agreed to :—

That no settlement of ecclesiastical judicature will be satisfactory which does not proceed upon the principle that the ancient Canonical Courts be preserved, subject to such amendments as may be deemed necessary and shall receive synodical approval.

Canon SUMMER next moved :—

That all Ecclesiastical judges be as far as possible canonically qualified and commissioned.

In doing so he alluded to the status of Lord Penzance, and urged the necessity of complying with the canonical regulations in all future judicial appointments.

Canon LOWE thought the words "as far as possible" might be omitted.

Canon SUMMER said that, owing to the dearth of "civilians" and the dying out of the old Court of Delegates, it was difficult to find men thoroughly qualified in canonical law.

Canon Lowe moved to insert the words, "in all cases have received Ecclesiastical Commissions."

Canon WRIGHT spoke in favour of the amendment, and contrasted the manner in which Lord Penzance was appointed to that observed in former appointments to the office of Dean of Arches. He wished for a due Ecclesiastical Commission for all such judges.

The Archdeacon of MAIDSTONE opposed the amendment, and wished the words "as far as possible" to be retained.

Canon HOPKINS supported this view.

The amendment was carried.

The following resolutions were also agreed to :—

That the Archdeacons' Courts be retained and strengthened where necessary. That all questions relating to doctrine, ritual, and discipline, except such as come under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon, be referred in the first instance to the Bishop, who may stay all proceedings, or hear the cause, either privately or in his court as he may determine. That the ancient Provincial Courts of Canterbury and York be retained with their separate jurisdictions. That, in accordance with the constitution of this Church and realm the right of appeal for the maintenance of justice in all ecclesiastical causes lies to the Crown. That, in cases of appeal to the Crown for the maintenance of justice, in questions involving doctrine or ritual, the judgment of the spirituality shall be required on the precise points of doctrine or ritual which are involved, and that such judgment of the spirituality be made public. That, for the purpose of the seventh resolution the term "spirituality" be taken to mean the Upper House of the two Convocations, assisted, if they think fit, by learned divines of the Church of England.

The House then adjourned.

*** *We are compelled to hold over the report of Thursday and Friday.*

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. J. Brooke, to Vicarage of St. Katharine's, Northampton. Patrons, Hyndman's Trustees.

Rev. A. B. Cross, late English Chaplain at Biarritz, and formerly Rector of Kessingland, Suffolk, to Vicarage of St. George's, Barrow-in-Furness. Patron, the Duke of Devonshire.

Rev. W. Dunkerley, Vicar of Hoar Cross, near Burton-on-Trent, to Vicarage of St. Thomas, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. Patron, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

Rev. S. French, late Chaplain to the Bishop of Adelaide, to Incumbency of St. Peter's, Glenely, South Australia.

Rev. F. J. Holland, Minister of Quebec Chapel, Marylebone, to be Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. Patron, the Queen.

Rev. F. T. Kruckenberg, to Vicarage of Grewelthorpe, Yorkshire. Patron, the Vicar of Masham.

Rev. W. L. Leeman, Vicar of Seaforth, Liverpool, to Rectory of Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. C. F. Ockford, Curate of St. Paul's, Bedminster, Bristol, to be Secretary of the Navvy Mission Society.

Rev. J. Pryce, Rector of Trefdraeth-cum-Llangwyfan, to be Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Bangor.

Rev. L. E. Shelford, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, to be Honorary Chaplain to the Bishop of Bedford.

Rev. R. F. Smithwick, Chaplain to Lord de Tabley, to Vicarage of Seaforth, Liverpool. Patron, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

Rev. A. H. Symonds, Curate of Lifton, to Vicarage of Kingsbridge. Patron, the Bishop of Exeter.

Rev. T. W. Webb, Vicar of Hardwick, to be Prebendary of Nunnington in Hereford Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop of Hereford.

Rev. P. E. Wilson, Curate of St. George, Bloomsbury, to Rectory of All Saints, Birmingham. Patrons, the Trustees.

OBITUARY.

Feb. 10, at the Rectory, Longstanton St. Michael, Cambridgeshire, the Rev. William Cecil, M.A., in the 90th year of his age and 59th of his incumbency, only surviving son of the late Rev. Richard Cecil, and formerly Fellow of Magdalen College, Cambridge.

Feb 11, at his residence, at Caterham, the Rev. Joshua Ground, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, Chaplain of the Caterham Asylum and of the Guards' Depot at Caterham, aged 54 years.

Feb. 12, at his residence, 52, Leinster-square, W., the Ven. James Hunter, D.D., late Archdeacon of Cumberland, Rupert's Land, and for the last 14½ years Vicar of St. Matthew's, Bayswater, in his 65th year.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Privy Council will deliver their judgment in the case of "Martin *v.* Mackonochie," on appeal of the Church Association, at 10.30 a.m. on *Ash Wednesday*.

The Enraght appeal to the House of Lords is twelfth on the list, and will probably be heard in about a fortnight's time.

At St Anne's, Soho, Bach's Passion Music (St. John) will be sung on Friday evenings during Lent. Admission is by ticket.

The Bishop of Salisbury has fixed April 19 and 20 for the annual Diocesan Synod, to take place in the chapter-house of the Cathedral.

Christ Church, Lichfield, is about to be enlarged by the addition of a new aisle, at a cost of £1,000. Mr. G. G. Scott has been selected as the architect.

The building fund of the Bennett Memorial Church at Bournemouth now exceeds £6,000, and a site has been secured. The patronage is vested with Keble College, Oxford.

It is proposed to restore the ancient church of St. James's, Clerkenwell, and already a handsome sum has been subscribed for this purpose.

During Lent there will be Bible reading and instruction, with short service, in the Mercers' Chapel, Ironmonger-lane, Cheapside, every Thursday evening at 8.15 p.m. On Ash Wednesday, service at 8.15 p.m. (in lieu of Thursday); Bibles and hymn-books provided. The chaplain, Rev. Arthur Veysey, will preach every Sunday evening during Lent. Choral service at 7 p.m.

We regret to hear that the Rev. Dr. Belcher, vicar of St. Faith's, Stoke Newington, has been obliged, through severe illness during the past fortnight, to break several engagements to speak or lecture on behalf of Mr. Green's release.

The Bishop of Peterborough has recovered to a very considerable extent from the indisposition which recently compelled him to leave his engagements at Leicester. His Lordship is, however, still prohibited by his medical advisers from preaching and public speaking for the present.

The *Bootle Times* says that the Rev. W. L. Leeman, incumbent of Seaforth, Lancashire, has accepted the rectory of Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire, to which he has been presented by the Lord Chancellor. The living is worth £700 per annum.

A meeting has been recently held in the Chapter-house at Lichfield, under the presidency of the Dean, in aid of the Melanesian missions, which were set on foot by Dr. Selwyn, late Bishop of Lichfield, and are now under the episcopal oversight of his son. Since the murder of Bishop Patteson, the missions have, it is said, met with marked success.

There will be special evening services in the Temple Church on Ash Wednesday, and the five following Wednesdays in Lent, at eight o'clock, with a course of sermons by the Master of the Temple (Dr. Vaughan), on some of the texts in which the Revised Version differs from the Authorised Version of the New Testament. By the permission of the Benchers the church will be open to the public on these occasions without the usual order of admittance.

The second course of Bible lectures for young men will be given at the Chapter-house, St. Paul's Churchyard, by the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth, at 8.15 p.m., as follows :—Thursdays, Feb. 23rd, The Plagues of Egypt: The Exodus; March 2nd, the Ten Commandments; March 9th, The Levitical Law; March 16th, The Wilderness: Balaam; March 23rd, Moses and Deuteronomy; March 30th, The Conquest of Canaan. Admission free. The monthly lecture for women will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8th; Monday, March 13th, and Monday, April 17th.

A handsome testimonial has been presented to the Rev. J. P. Benson, lately curate-in-charge of St. Andrew's, Lincoln, upon his removal to Mansfield St. John's.

During Lent special Sunday evening services will be held in the choir of Westminster Abbey at seven o'clock, at which the following will be the preachers: —February 26, Rev. W. Boyd Carpenter; March 5, the Dean; March 12, Rev. F. J. Holland (Canon designate of Canterbury); March 19, Canon Farrar; March 26, Canon Fleming; April 3, Rev. W. Page Roberts. The entrances for these services will be by Poets'-corner and East Cloister gate. The seats under the lantern and in the transepts will be perfectly free and unappropriated.

The President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, have intimated to the Rev. C. W. Markham, secretary to the Southwell Bishopric Endowment Fund, their intention of subscribing £250 towards the endowment of the new bishopric.

The Bishop of Peterborough, having been requested to consecrate the new cemetery at Sileby, near Leicester, replied that, under the conditions imposed by the recent Burials Act, he had no power to consecrate any portions of new cemeteries to the use of the Church of England. At the request of the burial board the vicar of the parish performed an opening ceremony under licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

At the annual meeting of the Woolwich and Erith branch of the English Church Union, held at Woolwich, on Wednesday, an address was delivered by the Rev. W. N. Loeds, Curate of St. John's, Miles Platting, on "The Parish and its Priest," in which he referred especially to the Rev. S. F. Green. At the conclusion the meeting passed the following resolution :—

That this branch of the English Church Union begs to convey to the parishioners of St. John's, Miles Platting, its sincere sympathy in their trouble, and to express its indignation at the unconstitutional, cruel, and unjust imprisonment of their constant and devoted pastor, the Rev. S. F. Green.

The campaign against Established Churches is likely, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to be resumed with considerable vigour in the present session. No direct attack will be made upon the central citadel of the English Church, but the outworks will be briskly assailed. The principle of allowing the Welsh to decide Welsh questions accepted by the Government and the Legislature last year in the Welsh Sunday Closing Act, is likely to be applied to the case of the State Church. In Wales it cannot command the support of more than a mere fraction of the population. The Scotch Church is also marked out for attack, and it is now stated that Mr. D. E. Baxter, who is travelling in India, intends to get up a case against the diminutive ecclesiastical establishment which has been set up in the country for the benefit of Anglo-Indians of the Anglican persuasion. As the principles of the Liberation Society have been applied in Canada, New South Wales, New Zealand, the Cape, the West India Islands, and Ceylon, the prospects of the State Church of India cannot be regarded as bright. The *Times of India* declares that it is ready for disestablishment, and it is possible that it may be the next to follow.

Princess Christian on Saturday laid the foundation-stone of a church to replace St. James's, Westbourne-terrace, Paddington. A short religious service, in which the Bishop of London, assisted by the Rev. Walter Abbott, vicar of Paddington, and the Rev. Daniel Moore, took part, preceded the formal laying of the stone. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were among those present. At the conclusion of the ceremony there was a presentation of purses containing contributions towards a fund for providing the new church with an organ, about £1,000 being required. The contributions for this purpose now amount to £700. In thanking Princess Christian for her presence, the Bishop of London explained that it had been thought better to pull down rather than to repair and enlarge the present church, which is only about forty years old, and to build on the site a larger and more convenient one. The new church will be built from designs prepared by the late Mr. G. E. Street, which will be carried out under the superintendence of his son and Mr. Bloomfield.

Mr. Gladstone has two benefices at Liverpool in his own private patronage, and both have just become vacant. To the vicarage of Seaforth (where he received his early education) the right hon. gentleman has nominated the Rev. Richard Fitzgerald Smithwick, chaplain to Lord de Tabley, formerly curate of St. Luke, Maidenhead; and to the incumbency of St. Thomas, Toxteth-park, with a population of 14,000, Mr. Gladstone has preferred the Rev. William Dunkerley, vicar of Hoar Cross, near Burton-on-Trent, a benefice in the gift of the Hon. Mrs. Meynell Ingram.

Among churches where the coming season of Lent will be observed by special services, St. Stephen's, South Kensington, presents a varied and appropriate list. On Sundays a series of conferences will be given in the afternoon at four o'clock on social subjects, among which will be included the Drama, Sunday Observance, Marriage, Fiction, Spiritualism, and Fashions. The Revs. J. W. Horsley, Dr. Belcher, J. P. F. Davidson, Minor Canon Shuttleworth, Dr. Thornton, and Harry Jones have each promised to take a subject, due notice of which will be given. On Sunday evenings the Rev. A. H. Stanton, of St. Alban's, Holborn, will preach a course of sermons; as will also the Rev. F. Benson, of Cowley, on Wednesday mornings. Every Friday evening at eight Rossini's "Stabat Mater" will be sung, with full orchestral accompaniment. The orchestral accompaniment will be rendered by the St. Stephen's Orchestral Guild, under the direction of Mr. Albert Lowe.

A temperance mission, which is to extend until March 31 next, has been inaugurated this week at Battersea in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of which (Canon Ellison and Mr. Robert Sawyer) attended the inaugural meeting. The Revs. Canon Erskine Clarke, Canon Basil Wilberforce, Canon Duckworth, J. H. Potter, J. W. Horsley, and others are to take part in the mission. It was announced at the inaugural meeting that the Ruridseconal Committee had resolved to instruct counsel to oppose the granting of any fresh licences at the ensuing Brewster Sessions.

A course of Lent lectures will be delivered in St. Alphage, London-wall, on Friday evenings at eight o'clock, commencing Feb. 24th, by the following preachers successively: the Rev. Canon Boger, the Rev. F. F. Goe, the Rev. R. Whaler Bush, the Rev. Prebendary Daniel Moore, the Rev. Gordon Calthrop, and the Rev. Prebendary Cadman. Young men are invited to attend.

The Rev. Francis James Holland, M.A., upon whom Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the Canonry of Canterbury, vacant by the death of the Rev. William Stone, is a son of the late and a brother of the present Sir Henry Holland. He was born about the year 1829, and graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, taking his Bachelor's degree in 1850, and proceeding M.A. in due course. He held the vicarage of St. Dunstan's at Canterbury from 1853 to 1861, when he was appointed minister of Quebec Chapel, Marylebone. Mr. Holland was nominated one of the "Six Preachers" of Canterbury Cathedral in 1859, and was an honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen from 1873 to 1876.

The Bishop of London has invited a considerable number of laymen to meet him at Willis's Rooms, on Tuesday, March 7, at 2.30, to consult with him as to the expediency and practicability of organising a Diocesan Conference for the diocese of London. The majority of the clergy, before whom he has repeatedly brought the subject in their rural deaneries, appear to be desirous that a conference such as has been established in every diocese except three, Llandaff, Worcester, and his own, should be held in his diocese. But the circumstances of London are so peculiar, and the difficulties of representation so great, that he feels that special consultation with the laity, whom he wishes to unite in one body with the clergy, is imperatively necessary. The laymen invited are of all shades of opinion, and of various social positions, in order that the scheme to be laid before them may be canvassed from every point of view. Should it be adopted, it is probable that an election of clerical and lay representatives for every deanery will take place in June or July next. The Rev. Dr. Thornton, vicar of St. John's, Notting-hill, has been appointed by the Bishop as provisional honorary secretary.

Mr. G. Gilbert Scott has made a very interesting report on the condition of the fine old church at Knapton, Norwich, which is sadly in need of substantial repairs, daylight being visible through the roof in several places. A restoration committee has been formed, and among other improvements will be the substitution of free and open benches for the present ugly pews. The roof is a particularly fine example of the double-hammer beam construction, and retains great part of its original coloured decoration, while the span of the nave is unusually wide for a village church. The thirteenth-century chancel screen has been spoilt by coats of whitewash, but it is hoped that careful cleaning will bring to light much of the original colouring.

The Bishop of Bedford will give a series of addresses on the Friday afternoons in Lent, at 5.15, at the Church of St. Matthias, Stoke Newington. His Lordship will also hold a confirmation at the same church on Friday evening, March 3, at eight. The vicar, the Rev. F. Caudwell, will deliver a course of sermons on the Sunday evenings in Lent on the "Rise and Progress of Penitence in the Soul of Man." The East London Church Fund has, we hear, recently made a grant of £30 towards the stipend of a mission woman; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have just granted £120 towards the stipend of a second curate, besides a sum of £500 towards the augmentation of the benefice, which has been promptly met with another £500 by Lord Egerton of Tatton, and Mr. R. Foster, Mr. C. Morrison, and Mr. J. S. Gilliat. It is also proposed to commence an infant school at a cost of £1,900, the plans for which have been drawn by Mr. Butterfield. The present schools are full to overflowing.

We have to record the death of one of the oldest clergymen in the Church of England in the person of the Rev. William Cecil, rector of Longstanton St. Michael, Cambridgshire, who died on Friday last in the 90th year of his age. The deceased was the last surviving son of the late Rev. Richard Cecil, formerly Fellow of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and was born in 1792. He graduated at Magdalen College, Cambridge, where he obtained the Bell's University Scholarship in 1811. He took his Bachelor's degree as seventeenth Wrangler in 1814, and proceeded M.A. in due course. Mr. Cecil was formerly a Fellow of his College, and had held the rectory of Longstanton St. Michael since 1823. He was the author of several books of a religious character.

A meeting of the members of the Universities Committees of the Privy Council was held on Monday in the Council Chamber, Whitehall, at which were present the Lord President of the Council, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Derby, and Sir Robert Collier. Their Lordships heard the Bishop of Lincoln against the confirmation of a statute of the Oxford University Commissioners relating to Lincoln College, Oxford. The Bishop appeared in person in support of his petition, which showed that Lincoln College, Oxford, was founded and endowed by two of his predecessors, Richard Fleming and Thomas Rotherham, and by Edward Derby, Archdeacon of Stow. In consideration of these endowments, it was provided in the ancient statutes of the College that the nomination to one of the Fellowships there should be vested for ever in the Bishop of Lincoln for the time being. That provision was confirmed by the Parliamentary Commissioners in 1855, and no abuse of the patronage had been ever proved or even alleged. The disposal of the patronage by Bishops of Lincoln had ever been shown to be beneficial to the College as a seminary of sound learning and religious education. By the statutes recently made by the Commissioners of the University of Oxford under the Act, the Bishops of Lincoln were now deprived of that right of patronage, and such an instance of deprivation was a violation of the ancient right possessed by Bishops of Lincoln for over 400 years. Such an Act would be injurious to the College and would be a dangerous precedent for other acts of confiscation of patronage in the University and in the Church. The Bishop, therefore, humbly prayed Her Majesty to be pleased to disallow the statute, that he might be heard in defence of that ancient right vested in the See of Lincoln. His Lordship, who was accordingly heard at some length in support of his petition, argued that it was a most important question from a religious point of view, and that as the occupants of the See of Lincoln had exercised the right for over 400 years without abuse, it was but fair that it should still continue to be vested in the Bishop. The Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. A. L. Smith appeared for the Oxford Commissioners, in opposition to the petition, and contended that no sufficient case had been made out by the Bishop for taking one fellowship out of the general scheme and vesting it in the Bishop, or for assuming that unfit or improper persons would be appointed to the fellowship by the governing body under the scheme proposed. The Lord President (Earl Spencer) said their Lordships would consider the arguments and report thereon to Her Majesty.

The Bishop of Worcester has issued a circular on the subject of raising a fund for the relief of clergymen whose incomes have been affected by the depreciation of the value of their glebes from agricultural depression. He says the question of relieving such distress has been considered carefully by the two Societies for the Relief of Clergymen's Widows and Orphans and of Necessitous Clergymen in the respective Archdeaconries of Worcester and Coventry, and the members of those Societies have determined that while the funds now entrusted to them should

be applied exclusively, as heretofore, to the relief of widows and orphans, and of clergymen disabled by age, sickness, or infirmity, their Committees may properly undertake the administration of a special fund, if such can be provided, for the temporary relief of necessitous clergymen officiating in the diocese of Worcester, who are suffering loss of income from serious reduction or failure of rent of glebe land.

The Rev. C. L. Acland, Head Master of the Grammar School, Colchester, who gave an admirable series of addresses during last Advent in the Church of St. Mary-at-Hill, Eastcheap, to the members of the Association of Lay-Helpers for the Diocese of London, on the "Doctrine of the Incarnation," is announced to deliver another series of lectures in the same church at the same hour (quarter past one o'clock) on "Some Aspects of Modern Rationalism." The course of lectures will commence on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and will be continued through the six successive Wednesdays. The following are subjects announced in his programme:—1. What is Rationalism? 2. The Modern Negation of Miracles. 3. The Unseen Universe. 4 and 5. The Life of Christ, by Strauss and Rénan. 6. The Resurrection. 7. The Lessons of the Holy Week. Any laymen or clergymen enabled to attend these lectures will be amply recompensed for their exertions.

The following petition has been forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a request that it may be presented to the Upper House of Convocation at the earliest opportunity in the ensuing session:—

To the Most Rev. the Archbishop and the Right Rev. the Bishops of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled.—The humble petition of the Rev. Mercer Davies, M.A., and of Ellen, his wife, residing in the parish of Chiswick, in the diocese of London, sheweth—That it appears by the example of the Patriarch Abraham, and by other facts recorded in the Holy Scriptures, that the practice of concubinage, as a distinct and lower form of marriage, was allowed in former days without rebuke by Almighty God, and is not forbidden or censured in any part of Scripture: That it was expressly permitted to Christians by some of the canons of the Early Church: That it is not forbidden by any law or canon of the Church of England, so far as your petitioners are aware: That having these facts in mind in the year of our Lord 1875, your petitioners being then both unmarried persons, and of full age, did solemnly and deliberately together enter upon this state of concubinage, in a private ceremony, which included a prayer to Almighty God, and the giving and receiving of a ring: That your petitioner, the said Mercer Davies, did within a short time afterwards, that is to say, in the month of July, 1876, write to the Lord Bishop of London, informing him of these facts, and requesting his Lordship's opinion thereupon; at the same time declaring his readiness to repent and make reparation, if it should be found that he had committed any error therein: That the said Lord Bishop replied by letter to your said petitioner, expressing his disapprobation, but not clearly showing that such conduct was contrary to the laws of God or of the Church of England; yet nevertheless warning your petitioner not to approach the Lord's Table: That your said petitioner has since that time earnestly and repeatedly desired from the said Lord Bishop, and from other ministers having authority within this diocese, a further and fuller consideration of this subject; but that they have severally excused themselves from this business, or otherwise neglected it; and that the said Lord Bishop has still continued to forbid your petitioner from the Lord's Table: That your petitioners, having lived together in faithful concubinage during the space of five years, were lawfully joined together in marriage on the 23rd day of December, 1880, but that the said Lord Bishop still continues his prohibition as before, thereby depriving your petitioner, the said Mercer Davies, both of his rights of Christian fellowship and also of the means of obtaining any maintenance by the exercise of his sacred calling: That your petitioner, the said Mercer Davies, has set forth the principal facts of Scripture and of the laws of the Church, on which he relies for his jurisdiction in these matters, in a book published by him, entitled, *Hagar; or, Scripture Facts Concerning Marriage*, which book he now respectfully submits to the serious consideration of your right reverend House; and that he is further ready to produce such letters or other evidence as may be required to substantiate the facts above stated: That your said petitioners, therefore, having a clear conscience herein, and desiring to act as faithful members of Christ's Holy Catholic Church, hereby appeal to your right reverend House to do justice between them and the said Lord Bishop, and humbly pray your Lordships to declare: Firstly, That the state of concubinage, such as they have practised, that is to say, when openly declared and faithfully observed, is not condemned or prohibited by the written word of God, nor by the laws or canons of the Church of England; and therefore ought not to be visited with excommunication or suspension from the rights of Christian communion and fellowship. And, secondly, That the said Lord Bishop of London hath gravely erred in charging your petitioners with wilful sin, and forbidding them from Holy Communion, without sufficiently hearing their defence, either in any Ecclesiastical Court or otherwise, and especially without further conferring with either of them, as requested.—(Signed) Mercer Davies, Ellen Davies.—4, Mawson-row, Chiswick, Jan. 26.

The Society for Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday at the Society's house, No. 7, Whitehall—the Venerable Archdeacon Harrison in the chair. There were also present Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. W. Windsor Clive, M.P., the Revs. A. J. Ingram, C. F. Norman, T. W. Parry, and Canon Stapylton, Messrs. John Boodle, J. F. France, Edward Thornton, W. E. M. Tomlinson, and the Rev. R. Milburn Blakiston, secretary. Grants of money were made in aid of the following objects, viz.:—

Building new churches at Gloucester, St. Paul, £200; Holly Hall, St. Augustine, in the parish of Dudley, £200; and Penrhiwceibr, in the parish of Mountain Ash, near Aberdare, £100; rebuilding the church of Cray, St. Illd, in the parish of Devynock, near Brecon; enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in the churches at Abergorleck, in the parish of Llanbyther, near Carmarthen, £30; Ashill St. Mary, near Ilminster, £20; Bunhill-row, St. Paul's, Finsbury, Middlesex, £75; Pentraeth, St. Mary, near Menai-bridge, Anglesea, £20; and Washington, Holy Trinity, near Fence Houses, Durham, £50.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure in showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

THE COURT.

On Sunday morning Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice, and the members of the Royal Household, attended Divine service at Osborne. The Rev. Canon Prothero officiated.

On Monday morning the Queen walked out with Princess Beatrice.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, on Thursday arrived in London from Osborne. From Victoria Station to Buckingham Palace the carriage was escorted by a squadron of Life Guards, with two outriders immediately on the right and left of the equipage. When near the Palace the horse ridden by the outrider on the off side grew restive, and, rearing, became uncontrollable. Having thrown its rider close to the Queen's carriage, the animal bolted along the ride in St. James's Park, but it was speedily secured. The outrider, who had fallen on his head, was cut about the face, but his injuries are not regarded as being of a serious character, and he was enabled to return to Windsor on Thursday evening.

Yesterday Her Majesty held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace. To-day (Saturday) the Court will remove to Windsor Castle.

On Sunday the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud attended Divine service.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales will give a ball on Friday, March 10, the anniversary of their wedding-day.

The *Lancet* says:—"The health of Her Majesty the Queen can never fail to be a matter of supreme interest to all classes of her subjects. The nation is at heart animated by a loyal concern for the personal happiness and welfare of its tried and trusted Sovereign. The people are stirred with feelings of mingled reverence for the Throne and affectionate regard for its present occupant. It is no mere figure of speech to say that Queen Victoria lives in the hearts of those she rules over. It is, therefore, not in the least surprising that the notification of Her Majesty's projected visit to Mentone should have excited much remark, and given rise to some anxieties. We believe we are justified in stating that while there is need for the change there is no cause for concern as to the health of the Sovereign. It seems to have been forgotten that the Queen is no mere nominal head of this empire. Actual and heavy State business passes daily through her hands, and taxes her attention severely. Her Majesty has never been in the habit of attaching her sign manual to unread papers. She ascended the throne in times of difficulty, and with a strong sense of the duty and responsibility imposed upon her; and during the lengthened period which has elapsed since her accession the Queen has given a large share of her attention to public business. Successive Ministries have been formed, borne the heat of the day, and fallen, leaving their *personnel* to seek and find relief and recreation in retirement; but the Queen has never been free from the burden of State since first she wore the crown. It is a real burden Her Majesty bears, a burden, a care, and anxiety, and no human being could fail to feel the continuous strain the bearing of such a burden necessarily produces. These facts should not be forgotten. The need for change of scene and climate just now is great, but not in any sense ominous. If Her Majesty is able to enjoy a period of perfect repose in retirement she will doubtless return with renewed strength to the discharge of her duties at the fitting time. Meanwhile the people of this country should understand that wearing a crown or wielding a sceptre is no child's play, even with a Constitutional Government."

MISCELLANEOUS.

About 350 Jewish refugees from Russia arrived in Liverpool last week and have continued their journey to the United States.

A violent gale raged on Tuesday in Scotland, accompanied by snow, thunder, and lightning.

The Rev. H. Wheeler, of Plymouth, died suddenly on Tuesday when leaving his house to officiate at a funeral.

The Rev. L. D. Brown, vicar of Welland, near Great Malvern, committed suicide on Saturday.

Robert Templeton, convicted of the murder of a woman named Scott, was executed on Monday in Manchester Gaol.

A woman was shot dead on Tuesday in an auction room at Edinburgh by the unexpected discharge of a revolver which was being offered for sale.

Herbert Snell, a youth of seventeen, convicted of the murder of his employer, Mr. Hardy, near Retford, has received a respite of the capital sentence pronounced upon him.

Mr. Fottrell has resigned his office as Secretary to the Irish Land Commission in consequence of his connection with the issue of the impugned pamphlet relating to the purchase of land.

A number of disguised men, with blackened faces, were captured near Listowel, by a police patrol, early on Saturday morning.

There has just died at Canterbury a soldier who was in the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. His name was Henry Baynes, and his age 62. He entered the 11th Hussars when a youth, and with that regiment went through the battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkermann, and was present at the taking of Sebastopol. Although in the thick of the fight at each engagement, he was never wounded. He was in possession of the Crimean medal, with clasp, and also the Turkish medal. Baynes received his discharge on the 19th June, 1863, with five good conduct badges, and bearing an excellent character.

The capital sentence passed upon Henry Westby, convicted at Nottingham of the murder of his father and of a fellow-clerk, has been respited.

Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla.—The Blood Purifier.—This extraordinary Medicine has a singular influence upon the blood, which it enriches and purifies. It removes all pimples and blotches, purifies the system, and acts like a charm. As a sustaining and purifying tonic it is invaluable, and highly recommended in long-standing cases of indigestion, nervousness, coughs, colds, scrofula, gout, dropsy, and wasting of flesh. Sold by all Druggists. Caution.—*Get the red and blue wrapper, with the Doctor's head in the centre.* No other genuine. In bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.—131, Fleet-street, E.C.

The man Morgan, who ate his Christmas dinner in the Strood Workhouse, near Rochester, after having ten months previously wasted a legacy of £1,000, has just come in for a second legacy, this time of £1,400. He is, of course, out of the workhouse once more.

An explosion occurred on Saturday at the Coedcae Colliery, and six lives were lost.

Little anecdotes every now and then crop up attesting the personal popularity of the Prince of Wales. A labourer, imprisoned for poaching on an estate in Norfolk, is said to have told the chaplain: "I never was in trouble while I lived at Sandringham. If a man needed a dinner there, and wanted a rabbit, he had only to go to the house and ask for one. The Prince gave special orders that the men were not to trespass and shoot for themselves, but that his keepers were always to supply a rabbit to any labourer on the estate; and that if none were in hand, they were immediately to go out and shoot some."

On Wednesday night Mr. Samuel Knight, brother of the manager of the Brighton Railway Company, heard cries for help near the Portsea waterside. A woman, in endeavouring to prevent a seaman from joining the flagship, fell into deep water. Mr. Knight dived into the water and rescued her.

At a meeting held at the Mansion-house on Tuesday, a resolution was passed urging the public to encourage the wear of British woollen manufactures as a means of alleviating the distressed condition of sheep farming. The chief speakers were the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir M. Lopes, M.P., Mr. Duckham, M.P., and Mr. Pell, M.P.

The Town Clerk at Cardiff has received a letter from Lord Windsor stating that, provided Cardiff is selected by the Government as the site for the proposed Welsh National College, he will contribute £1,000 towards the fund. Cardiff contributions have already reached nearly £20,000, in addition to the Corporation site, worth about £10,000. It is understood that the Education Department is now drafting the Welsh Education Bill, and that the measure will follow very closely the recommendations of the Commission which recently visited Wales under the chairmanship of Lord Aberdare.

Mr. S. Hall, the well-known author, and a native of Devonshire, has sent an intimation of his intention to bequeath from his library upwards of a thousand volumes to the Free Library of Plymouth, "the glorious old town that has given birth and awarded honour to so many worthies of Devon."

Lady Lethbridge, wife of Sir Wroth Acland Lethbridge, died at Sandhill Park, Taunton, a few days ago. The deceased, Anne, Lady Lethbridge, was daughter of Mr. Thos. Benyon, late of the Gleddowe, Yorkshire, and married, in 1861, Sir Wroth A. Lethbridge, by whom she leaves surviving issue six sons and a daughter.

A serious agrarian crime is reported from county Limerick. On Saturday a farm servant named Kelly, while ploughing a field near Adare, was fired at and wounded. Kelly was in the employment of a small farmer named Coleman, and had been threatened with death if he did not leave. He lies in a dangerous state. Fifteen arrests have been made of persons supposed to have formed the party who shot at Mr. Wilford Lloyd, and wounded a constable who was riding on his car in county Clare. A Limerick correspondent states the district round Tulla is in a most lawless condition.

The members of the London School Board met on Thursday. Mr. Mark Wilks, the chairman of the School Management Committee, brought up a report recommending that some higher elementary schools for boys and some for girls should be established in the metropolis. He hoped the London School Board would have the moral courage to raise its standard of education and to offer the means of retaining children at school even beyond their fourteenth year. He thought that some arrangements should be made by which children of remarkable aptitude, but of poor parents, might be admitted. Mr. Lucraft moved the "previous question," and urged that the present was not the time for the Board to enter into any fresh work. He thought it advisable that the Board should consider this higher education, but it might be carried on in existing schools. The Rev. J. R. Diggle seconded the amendment. After some discussion the question was adjourned. The industrial school question was again discussed in a report brought up by Mr. H. Spicer, the Chairman of the Committee, recommending that the Board should enter into arrangements with the industrial schools in Gem-street, Birmingham, and at Milbourne, Dorset, to which the boys from the St. Paul's School had been sent by order of the Home Secretary. The Committee presented reports by the assistant-inspector of industrial schools and the Board's inspector upon the Gem-street school. Objections were raised to the motion proposed to pay for the boys, and an amendment to defer the matter until after the Royal Commission on Industrial Schools had reported was proposed. This amendment received only three votes, while twenty-four voted against it. The "previous question" was then moved, one speaker urging that, as the Home Secretary had sent the boys to the Gem-street school, the Board should refuse to pay for them. Eventually the report was carried.

Spectacles versus Blindness.—One-fourth of those suffering from blindness can trace their calamity to the use of common spectacles or lenses imperfectly adapted to the sight. Mr. Henry Laurance, F.S.S., Oculist Optician, personally adapts his Improved Spectacles at his residence, 3, Endsleigh-gardens, Euston-square, London, daily (Saturdays excepted) ten to four Sir Julius Benedict writes:—"I have tried the principal Opticians in London without success, but your spectacles suit me admirably. The clearness of your glasses, as compared with others, is really surprising." Dr. Bird, Chelmsford, late Surgeon-Major, W.E.M., writes:—"I could not have believed it possible that my sight could have been so much improved and relieved at my age, 82. I can now read the smallest print, although suffering from cataract on the right eye." The Rev. Mother Abbess, St. Mary's Abbey, Hendon, says:—"The spectacles supplied to myself and several members of the Convent have given great satisfaction." Similar testimonials from John Woolcott, Esq., F.R.C.S., Founder of the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone; Ven. Archdeacon Palmer, Clifton; Lieutenant-General Macmillen, Brentwood; the Rev. Joseph Hargreaves, Uxoridge-road, and hundreds of others. Mr. Laurance's Pamphlet, "Spectacles, their Use and Abuse," post free.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Standard* gives the following account of an attack on British officers by Albanians:—

"Captain Selby, of Her Majesty's ship *Falcon* invited a few friends, consisting of Captain Grenfell, of Her Majesty's ship *Cockatrice*, Consul Wrench, and others to join a shooting party. While engaged in hunting for game at a spot called Artaki, situated on the south shore of the Sea of Marmora, the two captains being together at the time, Captain Selby was attacked, without provocation, by an Albanian shepherd, who was armed with a stick. I may here mention that the attack was probably due to a misunderstanding. Captain Selby, being ignorant of the Turkish language, did not understand the warning of the Albanian not to shoot in the vicinity of his flocks. Be this as it may, Captain Selby put down his gun, in order to show that he was peacefully inclined, upon which the Albanian attempted to seize it, and a struggle ensued for the possession of the weapon. Captain Grenfell, who was near, then came up, and pointed his gun at Captain Selby's assailant, who at once withdrew, calling out loudly to his companions to join him. In answer to his cries, another shepherd appeared on the scene, armed with a heavy axe; and while the first assailant, who had returned to the attack, was engaged in a fresh struggle with Captain Grenfell, the other struck Captain Selby with the axe at the moment when the latter was turning round to see what was going on, and laid his head open. Upon this a marine artilleryman in attendance seized Captain Selby's gun and fired upon the Albanian, wounding him with small shot. Meanwhile Captain Grenfell succeeded in disarming his man, who, hearing the report of firearms, followed by the cry of his companion, ran away, Captain Grenfell firing upon him while retreating, and the shot taking effect in the back. The English party then started for the ship's boats, which were waiting a few miles off to take them on board the *Falcon*."

"On reaching a farm which they had to pass on the way to the coast, the English officers were again attacked by about fifteen armed Albanians, who knocked them down with the butt-ends of their muskets, and while they were senseless bound them with cords. Half an hour later Consul Wrench came up, altogether ignorant of what had passed, and having a knowledge of the Turkish language, succeeded in procuring Captain Selby's release, Consul Wrench and Captain Grenfell constituting themselves hostages. Subsequently, Consul Wrench, by dint of diplomacy, managed to induce his captors to release him and his companion. Captain Grenfell, although considerably knocked about, is in no danger; but Captain Selby's injury is undoubtedly very serious, although the exact extent and gravity of the wound are not yet ascertained. Notwithstanding that Captain Selby passed a quiet night, his condition is considered very critical. The pluck and coolness displayed by the unfortunate officer after he had received the blow from the fearful instrument were something extraordinary. He walked unaided for two hours after he had been released up to his own ship's side, and did not retire to bed until he had ascertained that the rest of the party had returned to the vessel."

Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, has received a telegram from Queen Victoria making inquiries respecting the condition of Captain Selby. His Excellency, in his reply, mentions that the four Albanians concerned in the attack upon Captain Selby were arrested on Thursday.

The following is an extract from a letter received by the last Indian mail from a gentleman in Mhow, giving an account of a tragic occurrence there. Mhow is a military cantonment in Central India under the Bombay command:—

January 19.—There was is most sad occurrence at Mhow yesterday. A sepoy of the 1st Grenadiers N.I. ran a muck and shot four persons before putting an end to himself. The sepoy was late for parade, and was ordered three days' confinement in barracks by the adjutant of the regiment. This seems to be the sole cause of his wildness. After the parade he went to the subadar and said he wanted to see Colonel Henslowe, the commanding officer, as he had been punished for nothing. The subadar said, "To-morrow morning will do, in the orderly-room." The sepoy said nothing more, went to his hut, took his rifle and pouch, and it is surmised said something of his intentions to his wife, for she, a pardáh woman, ran out after him. He turned and shot her, and her child. He then went to the centre main street, and at random fired down it, shattering the arm of a sepoy. The arm had to be amputated above the elbow. Colonel Henslowe, who lived about 200 yards from the Native Infantry lines, heard the firing, went out, saw the state of matters, walked from the back of the house to the guard at the Quartermaster's store, took a rifle and cartridge from one of the sepoys, and tried to stalk the man who was firing at everyone he saw. When Colonel Henslowe got within 150 yards of the man he stepped out of cover of the hut he was behind and raised his rifle to shoot the sepoy. The man, however, was too quick for him; he took snap shot at Colonel Henslowe, and dropped him with a bullet in his hip. This was about 9.30 a.m. yesterday. Colonel Henslowe lingered for about twelve hours, and died at a quarter to ten last night. As soon as he had shot Colonel Henslowe the sepoy put in another charge, rested the butt of the rifle on the ground, put the muzzle to his head, and pulled the trigger with his toe, blowing his brains out. The woman died at five in the evening. The child and the maimed sepoy live, and are likely to recover.

January 20.—Further inquiry has made the story about the sepoy shooting himself after dropping Colonel Henslowe improbable. The sepoy was shot in the chest. The muzzle of the rifle with the butt on the ground would have reached much higher than the shot in the chest. Then there is the difficulty, almost impossibility, of the toe of an ammunition boot being inserted within the guard to pull the trigger. It is said there was a double report, and that Colonel Henslowe did fire, so probably it was his shot that killed the sepoy. Colonel Henslowe was the best marksman in the regiment.

Epps's Cocoa.—Grateful and Comforting.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence for afternoon use.

2/- TEA OF EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY,

As Supplied to Dukes, Earls, Barons, and the County Families of England.

THE unprecedented depression in the Tea Market now enables COOPER COOPER and CO. to offer such value in Tea as would, a few years ago, have been considered simply impossible, but is now a realised fact, for at

TWO SHILLINGS A POUND

COOPER COOPER and CO. are able to supply Tea of amazing strength and exquisite quality, while the choice kinds at Three Shilling a pound, which are coming to hand in lessening quantities year by year, COOPER COOPER and CO. have the greatest difficulty, after ransacking the markets of China and India, in procuring in sufficient quantities for their consumption. These choice and selected Teas COOPER COOPER and CO. have the honour to supply to many Foreign Princes, Potentates, Ambassadors, &c.

THE enormous success—without competitors and with no rivals—which has attended the sale of COOPER COOPER and CO.'S Teas is perhaps unparalleled in the annals of this or any other trade, and can only be accounted for by the way in which their business has been conducted, which has gained the patronage of all classes. COOPER COOPER and CO. number among their customers Princes, Dukes, Earls, Barons—in fact, a large per-centage of the entire Peerage—Church dignitaries of every grade, and ministers of all denominations, County families from every county in Great Britain, and from all classes of the community. COOPER COOPER and CO. are also shipping their Teas every day to foreign parts. Paris would appear to draw its supplies from COOPER COOPER and CO.'S Stores, and in almost every large city, and especially in the seaport towns of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America—in fact, to the very ends of the earth—COOPER COOPER and CO.'S Teas and COOPER COOPER and CO.'S name are known.

COOPER COOPER and CO. have their own Agents in China and India, and are consequently able to sell their Tea at a price which is actually under that which wholesale merchants, brokers, &c., charge to ordinary dealers. They are enabled to do this, as they have not the expense of travellers and no bad debts to provide for, their terms being strictly for nett cash before delivery. They also save an immense amount by keeping no horses and vans—many houses having from 20 to 100 horses, vans, and two men to each, to deliver, sometimes, half-a-pound of tea miles and miles away, this overwhelming expense having all to come out of the quality of the Tea.

COOPER COOPER and CO. have, in fact, no expense but indispensable rent and labour, which, in consequence of still-increasing business, amount only to a fraction on the price of the Tea they sell.

COOPER COOPER and CO. may mention that they include among the regular buyers of their Tea a great many London Tea Brokers, from the simple fact that it can be purchased cheaper and better from them than from the importers themselves.

COOPER COOPER and CO. sell their Teas for ready money only. They have thus no provision to make for bad or doubtful debts.

AND now a word about this year's crop. It is hardly satisfactory on the whole, but some of the choice crops secured by COOPER COOPER and CO. are simply delicious. COOPER COOPER and CO. are still enabled to sell the very best at Three Shillings a pound, and it is veritably a marvel of goodness—a "thing of beauty" and "a joy for ever." But the most astonishing thing of modern times is the Tea at Two Shillings a pound which COOPER COOPER and CO. are now selling. The rich and wealthy buy this Tea. Ladies drink it in their boudoirs, and at their early drums, and as one of our country patrons writes, "It is lovely."

COOPER COOPER and CO. may add that

INDIAN TEA

is becoming day by day a greater favourite among the best judges, and this year's crop has been prepared with greater care than ever. It is strong, pungent, with most agreeable flavour, and the better it is known the more it will be liked.

THE TEA IS 3s. A POUND FOR THE BEST.

COOPER COOPER and CO. charge threepence a package (of any size) for delivering their Teas at any of the Railway Stations in London, or any place within the limits of the London Parcels Delivery Co., thus putting all on an equality: those who send for their Tea, and those who require it sent.

COOPER COOPER and CO. do not pay railway carriage, but are willing to compound for the same on receiving the sum of 9d., in addition to the price of the Tea, to any Railway Station in England, on quantities of the value of £2 and upwards. Families residing in the country can thus by clubbing together, have their Tea sent almost carriage free, as well as save about 9d. a pound in the cost.

COOPER COOPER & CO.,

50, King William Street, London Bridge; 63, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.; 268, Regent Circus, W.; 35, Strand (near Charing Cross), W.C.; 7, Westbourne Grove, London, W.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 14, at Erin Hall, Barbadoes, the Hon. Mrs. WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON, of a son.

Feb. 10, at Higher Broughton, the wife of the Rev. ERNEST F. LETTS, Precentor of Manchester Cathedral, of a daughter.

Feb. 12, at 101, Queen's-gate, the wife of Rear-Admiral RICHARD C. MAYNE, C.B., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 17, at the parish church, Kingston, Jamaica, Rev. CHARLES F. DOUET, M.A., Rector of Spanish Town and Acting Archdeacon of Middlesex, to ELLEN MARY, the youngest daughter of the late Hon. LOUIS FULLERTON MACKINNON, Member of the Legislative Council, of The Whim, Old Harbour.

Feb. 7, at St. George's, Hanover-square, GEORGE A. MASSINGHAM, of Oakleigh, Beverley-road, Anerley, to MARY JANE, second daughter of the late ROBERT LEWIS, of 17, Maddox-street, W.

Feb. 9, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, HENRY ANTHONY SPEDDING, Esq., of Mirehouse, Cumberland, to the Lady JANE CHARLOTTE STEWART, fourth daughter of the late Earl of Galloway.

Feb. 9, at St. Peter's, Eaton-square, RUPERT KENNETH WILSON, third son of the late Rev. OCTAVIUS FREIRE OWEN, M.A., F.S.A., Rector of Burstow, Surrey, to ANNIE JULIA, only child of the late ALFRED GEORGE PRICE, of Park House, Gloucester, Esq.

Feb. 9, at St. Stephen's, South Dulwich, EDWARD MILNER, of 32, New Cavendish-street, Portland-place, third son of Edward Milner, of Hillside, Dulwich-wood, to ANNE MATILDA ELIZA (LIZZIE), daughter of the late Col. JOHN JAMES HAMILTON, of the Bengal Staff Corps, and the adopted daughter of Charles Buralem Saunders, C.B., of Westbourne Lodge, Dulwich.

Feb. 11, at St. Jude's, Southsea, CARMICHAEL LIGHT, second son of the late Sir HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, C.B., and Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, to ROSINA ELIZABETH, widow of the late Capt. JOHN BECKE, of the Marine Battalion, Bombay Army.

DEATHS.

Feb. 7, at Turvey, Bedfordshire, JAMES HIGGINS, Esq., formerly of Manchester, aged 69 years.

Feb. 10, at St. Brelade's, Jersey, MARCUS CROSBIE BROWNRIGG, Esq., youngest son of the late Sir Henry Brownrigg, C.B., aged 39 years.

Feb. 11, at Sandhill Park, Taunton, Lady LETHBRIDGE.

Feb. 12, at Elmore Court, Gloucestershire, after only a few days' illness, JANE ISABELLA, third daughter of Sir WILLIAM and Lady GUISE, aged 31.

Feb. 13, at 44, Grosvenor-street, LILY, the infant daughter of the Earl and Countess of LEITRIM.

Feb. 13, at the Rectory, Biddenden, Kent, the Rev. JAMES BOYS, Rector, aged 89 years.

LONDON THEATRES, &c.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY. (Fifth Morning Performance). To-day (Saturday), Feb. 18, MIGNON. This (Saturday) evening, FAUST: Marguerite, Mdme. Fernandez Bentham (her only appearance). Monday, Feb. 20, Balfe's BOHEMIAN GIRL. Tuesday, Feb. 21, Wagner's FLYING DUTCHMAN. Ash Wednesday, no performance. Thursday, Feb. 23, TANNHAUSER.

Orchestra stalls, 10s. 6d.; grand circle, 7s. 6d.; box seats, 5s.; amphitheatre stalls, 3s.; pit, 2s. 6d.; gallery stalls, 1s. 6d.; gallery, 1s.; private boxes, from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s. Pit books, containing 30 transferable tickets, £3. No restrictions as to evening dress. Doors open at 7.30; opera at 8. Subscription for the season received by, and seats for any performance may be obtained from, the principal librarians and the box-office of the theatre, from ten till five daily.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.—This Evening, at 7.15, ROBINSON CRUSOE: Messrs. Arthur Roberts, Harry Jackson, Harry Nicholls, James Fawn, John D'Auban, Charles Lauri, jun., De Voy, Le Clerq, &c.; Mesdames Fanny Leslie, Amalia, D'Auban, Sisters Mario, De Vere, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—This Evening, at 8, OURS.

ADELPHI. — This Evening, at 8, TAKEN FROM LIFE. At 7.45, MY TURN NEXT.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8.30, TWO ROSES: Mr. Irving; Mr. David James. At 7.30, THE CAPTAIN OF THE WATCH.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—This Evening, THE LIGHTS O' LONDON. To be preceded, at 7, by A PHOTOGRAPHIC FRIGHT.

GAIETY THEATRE, STRAND.—To-night, at 7.5, Operetta: 7.20, Farce: 8.30, ALADDIN

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, COUSIN DICK. At 8.20, THE SQUIRE.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.—Every Evening, at 8, MANOLA. Preceded, at 7.45, by PARADISE VILLA.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—This Evening, at 7.50, THE MARBLE ARCH. At 8.40 THE COLONEL.

GLOBE THEATRE.—This Evening, at 7.30, A BED OF ROSES. At 8.15, THE CYNIC.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, Strand.—At 7, ON AN ISLAND. At 8, THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

OPERA COMIQUE.—This Evening, at 9, MOTHER-IN-LAW. Preceded, at 7.45, by LOVERS' KNOTS.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, MY LITTLE GIRL. At 8.45, THE MANAGER.

ROYALTY THEATRE.—This Evening, PLUTO; or LITTLE ORPHEUS AND HIS LUTE. Preceded, at 7.15, by THE FAST COACH.

ROYAL COMEDY THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8, THE MASCOTTE. At 7.30, SEEING FROU FROU.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—This Evening at 8, the grand spectacular fairy opera, BLACK CROOK. Music by Mr. Fred Clay and Mons. G. Jacobi.

CRITERION THEATRE. — Every Evening, at 8, RUTH'S ROMANCE. At 8.45, THE GREAT DIVORCE CASE.

SAVOY THEATRE.—This Evening, at 8.30, the new æsthetic opera, PATIENCE. Preceded by, at 8, MOCK TURTLES.

IMPERIAL THEATRE, Westminster.—This Day, at 3, MACFARLANE'S WILL. Reduced prices from the Royal Aquarium.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—This Evening, at 8.15, FAITHFUL HEART. Farce at 7.30.

SANGER'S GRAND NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Every Day, at Two and Seven o'clock, BLUEBEARD. The spectacular display in the marriage scene by far eclipses any production ever previously submitted to the public, and the completeness of the whole affair greatly surpasses all former efforts.

SURREY THEATRE.—THIS EVENING at 7, Pantomime, MOTHER BUNCH; or, The Man with the Hunch. Mr. G. H. Macdermott, Albert and Edmonds Troupe, Lauraine Family. Messrs. Cruikshanks, Wilton, Mosedale, Wright, &c.; Mesdames Marie Loftus, Lizzie Beaumont, Blanche Fenmore, the Claremonts, Mdme. Sidonie.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate.—This Evening, at 7, the grand new Pantomime, SINBAD THE SAILOR. Misses Rose Lee, Howes, Conway, Rayner, Gerard, Brunton, Hunt, and Lucy Millais; Messrs. Henry Nordblom, E. Wilmore, Ellis, Westbourne, Vincent, A. Glover, and John Barnum.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Week ending February 25.

Monday and Tuesday—GREAT CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD. The most successful pantomime ever produced at the Crystal Palace. Orchestral Concerts, &c. Saturday—Saturday Concerts resumed: Conductor, Mr. August Manns.

DAILY—International Electric Exhibition. Palace open for admission from Ten a.m. till Nine p.m., and Lighted Every Evening by Various Systems of Electric Light. Skating Rink. Panorama, painted by M. Philippoteaux (admission one shilling). Evening Concerts by the Faggi Concert and Elocutionist Party. Organ (Mr A. J. Eyre).

Admission to Palace, Monday to Friday, One Shilling; Saturday, Half a Crown, or by Season Ticket.

HENGLER'S GRAND CIRQUE, Argyll-street, Oxford-circus.—CHARLES HENGLER'S unrivalled EQUESTRIAN ENTERTAINMENT, Every Evening, at 7.30. GRAND MATINEES Daily, until further notice. Open at Two, commence at 2.30. Box-office open at the Cirque daily from Ten to Four.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—The Palace of Amusement.—Open 12, close 11.—NOTICE.—All Extra Charges are now abolished, and the price for admission to One and All Entertainments is One Shilling.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

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Current Accounts opened according to the usual practice of other Bankers, and Interest allowed on the minimum monthly balances when not drawn below £25. No commission charged for keeping Accounts.

The Bank also receives money on Deposit at Three per cent. Interest, repayable on demand.

The Bank undertakes for its Customers, free of charge, the custody of Deeds, Writings, and other Securities and Valuables; the Collection of Bills of Exchange, Dividends, and Coupons; and the purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares.

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FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

31st March, 1880.

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HOW to PURCHASE a PLOT of LAND for FIVE SHILLINGS PER MONTH, with immediate possession, either for Building or Gardening purposes. Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.

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Loss claims arranged with promptitude and liberality.

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WEST KENSINGTON.

THE CEDARS ESTATE.

This favourite and delightful Estate is situate in the

CENTRE of the FASHIONABLE and SALUBRIOUS SUBURB of WEST KENSINGTON,

and is about three miles from Charing-cross. The West Kensington and Addison Road (Kensington) Stations are adjoining the Estate, and afford the very best accommodation for the City and West-end. The soil is a fine gravel, and every attention has been given to sanitation, and the Estate must be admitted to be one of the healthiest in the metropolis.

A PRIVATE LAWN TENNIS GROUND

is being formed for the use of Residents upon the Estate.

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The **HOUSES** upon the **CEDARS ESTATE** are substantially built, of handsome elevation, and with every modern and essential convenience. Elegant and fashionable decorations may be selected by the Tenant or Purchaser.

The **ST. PAUL'S SCHOOLS** (founded in 1509 by Dean Colet, and now situate in St. Paul's-churchyard) will be shortly removed to a Site adjoining the Cedars Estate. The handsome and spacious building and extensive recreation grounds when completed will afford immense advantages for the education of the sons of residents in the neighbourhood.

Terrace, detached, and semi-detached Houses now to be Let or Sold, at rentals from 60 to 100 guineas. Prices from £900 to £2,000.

Sites may be selected and Residences would be built upon the Estate to suit the requirements of intending purchasers.

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LATEST NEWS.

Washington, Feb. 17.

An important conference was held at the Navy Department on the evening of the 15th inst., which was attended by the members of the naval committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, Admiral Porter, the principal officers of the navy, and the heads of the department. Mr. Hunt, Secretary of the Navy, declared that the construction of the American navy attracted attention owing to the fact that the relations of the United States on the Isthmus of Panama might be said at the present time to be critical. The general discussion which followed referred to the needs of the navy, the majority of the speakers favouring the construction of large and swift steel cruisers.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.

M. Schischmaroff, the second Russian Commissioner, accompanied by the Russian Consul at Kuldja, has left for Schiho to confer with Tajan-Tsium-Tsin, the Chinese representative, concerning the mode of transferring the Ili territory to China. Should no obstacles arise, the transfer will be effected by the 23rd inst.

New York, Feb. 17.

An explosion has occurred at the Pyrotechnic Works at Chester, Pennsylvania, by which fifteen persons are reported to have been killed, and many others dangerously injured.

Telegraphing on Thursday night, the Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* says :—

An ominous silence reigns here, and the situation is not satisfactory. The new Ministry is composed of men who possess little or no official experience. They have done nothing up to the present moment to justify their appointment, and apparently they do not realise the high positions they have so suddenly attained. What the future course of Arabi Bey's Ministry may be it is difficult to say; but should the National party succeed in getting rid of the European Controllers General it is believed in well-informed quarters that affairs would return to what they were under Ismail Pasha, the ex-Khedive. High personages continue to entertain the opinion that, in order to avoid any such result, and with a view to remove the chances of future complications here arising from the situation, the sole remedy is for the British Government to request the Sultan to appoint a special commision of inquiry. Such commission would bring the National party to reason, and not leave Egyptian tranquillity a matter of doubt. The British Government cannot be well informed if it believes the Sultan to be acting with the National party.

The *Standard's* correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows :—

If Sir Charles Dilke's answer to Mr. Edward Stanhope's question is rightly given here, the British Minister at Teheran has stated that the new Russian frontier is drawn at a distance of 150 miles from Sarrakhs. This would coincide pretty accurately with the limit of territory actually occupied by the Russian forces after Skobeleff's victory, in taking Lufhabad as their advance post, and would imply just such permanent advance as Russia would be justified in making. It is quite at variance, however, with the information accompanying my announcement of the fact that a treaty between Russia and Persia had been signed; and as the statement I then made was immediately and spontaneously confirmed from independent sources, both in England and Russia, I think that its claim to accuracy is too strong to be summarily disposed of by vague telegrams from Teheran. In any case, it is perfectly evident that the British Government must have been in possession of the main outline of the treaty weeks before its publication in your columns; and it is not a little strange that, in a matter so nearly touching our interests in Central Asia, absolute silence should have been maintained until silence was no longer possible.

MONEY MARKET.

Friday.

Consols closed for money at 100½ to 100⅝, and for the account 100 5-16 to 100 7-16.

At the Bank the sum of £105,000 in Dutch and American coin, and £6,000 in sovereigns from Paris, was received.

Yesterday (Friday) was the twenty-first anniversary of the birth of the Princess Helen of Waldeck-Pyrmont, the *fiancée* of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany.

The Bishop of Bedford presided yesterday afternoon at a special meeting at Stafford House, St. James's, to consider the work of the Young Women's Help Society in the south and east of London.

We regret to state that at the meeting of Convocation yesterday a letter was read from Archdeacon Denison resigning all further part in committee work on account of his advanced age.

We regret to hear that the Rev. Dr. Irons, rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, City, is seriously unwell. A notice is affixed to the door of his church requesting "the prayers of those worshipping in the church" on his behalf.

Bishop Piers Claughton, Canon-in-Residence this month at St. Paul's Cathedral, was unable to preach on Sunday afternoon owing to ill-health. His place was supplied by the Rev. Dr. Baker, one of the Prebendaries of the Cathedral.

Mrs. Scoville, Guiteau's sister, has addressed a pathetic appeal to Mrs. Garfield, asking her to forgive her brother, whom she describes as a brain-sick, deluded, and crazy man.

Yesterday morning the Earl of Wilton was reported to be in a very critical condition, having had a very serious relapse during the night. At half-past ten the following bulletin was issued :—"Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray.—The Earl of Wilton has passed a restless night, and is, therefore, not quite so well this morning.—C. H. Marriott, M.D., G. T. Willan, M.R.C.S."

The injuries to the Queen's groom who was thrown in St. James's Park, on Thursday are not of that serious character represented in some papers. The man is now attending to his duties as usual, having experienced but little inconvenience from his fall.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. Clement Molyneux Royds, of Greenhill, near Rochdale, and Miss A. Nora J. Littledale, second daughter of the late Thomas Littledale, Esq., of Highfield, near Liverpool.

Also between Mr. Edward John Fellowes, eldest son of Mr. Robert Fellowes, of Shotesham Park, Norfolk, and Miss Charlotte Maud Sewell, fourth daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sewell, of the Manor House, Long Stratton, Norfolk.

On Thursday, at St. Andrew's Church, Victoria-street, a marriage was solemnised between the Earl of Winchilsea and Lady Elizabeth Bryan. The church was filled with members of both families and friends before the arrival of Lady Elizabeth. The Marquis of Conyngham was wheeled into church a few minutes before his sister entered the church, and was at the altar rails to receive her. Lady Elizabeth Bryan was accompanied by the Marchioness of Conyngham, and wore a dress of pale grey satin, the front covered with white lace, a small bonnet of grey satin and feathers. The Hon. and Rev. Francis Byng read the service, and at its conclusion, the register being signed, the wedding party dispersed, a few of the nearest relations being received at lunch by the Earl and Countess of Winchilsea at their residence in Victoria-street, where they will remain. The Marchioness of Conyngham wore a dress and bonnet of deep crimson plush. The Marchioness of Anglesea dark brown velvet, with fan. Lady Probyn, in black satin, with gold embroidery. The Hon. Mrs. Byng, cream-coloured cashmere. Miss Packer, white dress and hat.

The marriage of John Baker, Esq., and Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Robert Hawes, D.D., vicar of Tunstall, Staffordshire, took place at St. Mary's Church, Lavendon, Bucks, on the 7th inst. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the rectory for the *déjeuner*, and later in the day the bride and bridegroom left for Paris. The bride's dress was of ivory satin, made simply, trimmed with real orange flowers, and almost covered by the bridal veil of Irish lace. Her travelling costume was brown cashmere, trimmed with watered silk, with mantle and hat to match. One of the bridesmaids was in white and mauve, and the other two wore peacock blue satin, with cream hats. The presents were numerous and handsome.

On the 10th inst., Mr. Augustus Langham Christie, of Tapeley Park, Instow, son of Mr. Wm. Langham Christie, M.P. for Lewes, was married to the Lady Rosamond Alicia Wallop, third daughter of the Earl of Portsmouth, at Wembworthy parish church, North Devon. The wedding party assembled by ten o'clock, the bridesmaids awaiting the bride in the church porch. They were eleven in number, namely, Ladies Camilla, Dorothea, Margaret, and Henrietta Wallop, the bride's sisters; Misses Agnes, Elizabeth, and Mary Christie, the bridegroom's sisters, Lady Winifred Herbert, Miss Chichester, Miss Lucy Chichester, and Miss Beach. The bride came with her father, and he gave her away. She wore a dress of white satin, trimmed with exquisite old English point, a reproduction of sixteenth-century lace, the bodice and handkerchief trimming all made to match; wreath of orange blossoms, myrtle, and stephanotis, and a Brussels lace veil; her ornaments were a diamond star, the gift of Mrs. Cleveland, of Tapeley; a gold brooch, given by her brother-in-law, Mr. Milnes Gaskell; and two bracelets, one presented by the bridegroom, and the other by the servants. The bridesmaids' dresses were of pale blue cashmere, tastefully trimmed with cream-coloured lace; bonnets to match, trimmed with areophane and ribbon, and a cluster of cream roses. Each wore an antique silver brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Stuart Menzies acted as groomsman. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Chas. Stone, of Cheldon, chaplain to the Earl of Portsmouth, assisted by the Rev. A. W. Owen, rector of Wembworthy. The service concluded, the wedding party and friends returned to Eggesford House, where breakfast was served in "the gallery" to a numerous company. The wedding cake was profusely ornamented, and five feet high. At twelve o'clock the newly-married couple started for London, *en route* to Paris. The bride's travelling costume was of sapphire-blue cashmere and moire silk; bonnet to match, and sealskin paletot.

On Saturday last, at the parish church, St. Mary Abbotts, Kensington, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Frederick Mackarness, son of the Lord Bishop of Oxford, with Miss Amy Chermside, daughter of the late Rev. Seymour Chermside, rector of Wilton, Wilts. The wedding party assembled at the church by half-past eleven o'clock, when the bride arrived, and was received at the church door by her six bridesmaids. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Christopher Harrison, his best man. The bride's dress was of cream-coloured satin duchesse, trimmed with Spanish blonde. The long square train was draped to the waist, and the back of the basque bodice looped up and trimmed with the blonde. The front of the skirt was *en tablier*, with box-plaits from the waist to within twelve inches of the ground; here about six inches were filled with bouillonnés, finished with a plaited flounce. The high bodice was trimmed square with the blonde, and a garland of bridal flowers placed on the left side, and had elbow sleeves. She wore a wreath of orange blossoms and myrtle, covered by a veil of spotted Brussels lace, bordered all round with Spanish blonde, and fastened to her hair by pearl pins, and carried a bouquet of white flowers. Her ornaments included a gold pendant set with pearls and diamonds. The bridesmaids were attired alike in fine pearl grey cashmere, trimmed with amethyst Lyons velvet and chenille fringe. The skirts were arranged *en tablier* with rows of chenille fringe, alternated with bouillonnés of cashmere and revers of amethyst velvet. The bodices, pointed and gathered in front, were finished with ruffles lined with velvet, and straps of the velvet across the bust and on the sleeves, which were gathered and finished with gauntlets lined with velvet. They wore grey chip hats *à la mousquetaire*, the brims lined with amethyst velvet, and two grey ostrich features tipped with amethyst; grey gloves and hose, and amethyst velvet shoes. Each carried a basket of gilt work, lined with amethyst satin merveilleux, and trimmed with the new cream Mauresque lace and ribbons, a novelty suggested by Mrs. Alfred Morrison, the bride's sister. They were filled with natural flowers. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bridegroom, and the bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. H. Walter, of Papplewick Hall. The service was choral, and after it the wedding party proceeded to Mrs. Chermside's residence in Collingham-place, South Kensington, for breakfast. Among those present at the *déjeuner* were Lord Coleridge, the Bishop of Oxford and Mrs. Mackarness, the Bishop of Argyll and Mrs. Mackarness, Hon. Bernard and Mrs. Coleridge, Hon. and Rev. Randall and Mrs. Parsons, Sir Trevor and Lady Lawrence, Hon. Geoffrey Fiennes, Sir Joseph and Lady Fayrer, Mr. Justice and Lady Bowen, General and Mrs. Pasley, Mr. Gregory, M.P., and Mrs. and Miss Gregory, Mr. R. Reid, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. H. Walter and Miss Walter, Mr. Alfred Morrison and Misses Morrison, Mr. Hugh and Mr. Archibald Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thynne, &c. Shortly after two o'clock the newly-married couple left for Worthing. The bride's travelling dress was of prune West of England cloth, trimmed with poult de soie to match, and a little pale blue on the bodice: the close-fitting jacket *en suite* had gold-embroidered velvet collar, cuffs, and pockets; brown beaver hat *à la Mousquetaire*, edged with gold, and trimmed with shaded brown feathers.

On Tuesday afternoon, at three o'clock, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, the marriage took place of Mr. Walter Albert Sandeman, eldest son of Mr. Albert Glas Sandeman, of 66, Ennismore-gardens, and Brightwell-park, Oxon, and Miss Constance Fenwick, eldest daughter of Mrs. Fenwick, of Eaton-place. The officiating clergy were the Rev. J. P. Dopledge, vicar of Satley, Durham, and the Rev. J. Blomefield, of All Saints, Ennismore-gardens. The bride, who was given away by her maternal grandfather, Mr. Cookson, of Melton-park, Morpeth, wore white satin trimmed with Brussels lace, and trails of orange blossom, and over a wreath a Brussels lace veil fastened with diamond stars. She was attended by eight bridesmaids, who wore costumes of primrose watered silk, with hats composed of white lace and snowdrops, and carried bouquets of primroses, snowdrops, and fern. Mrs. Fenwick, the bride's mother, wore pearl-grey satin trimmed with dark fur. Across the front of the skirt a deep scarf of fine Spanish point was arranged. The bonnet had white feathers and pearl beads. Mrs. Albert Sandeman wore bronze velvet and a bonnet to correspond, with tufts of pale pink feathers. Lady Isabella Schuster a magnificent costume of dark velvet embroidered with a large pattern in rainbow jet; the Marie Stuart bonnet was dark-brown with feathers of a lighter shade, and rainbow beads. Her daughter wore a pretty costume of pale blue damassé over silk, and a hat with blue feathers. Lady Slake was in an entire costume of ruby satin. Mrs. Childers wore ruby velvet, with plastron of ruby silk laced across with cord. Hon. Clementina Maude wore a brown dress, with tunic of silk striped with brown, red, yellow, and navy blue; the printed brown satin bodice had a gathered plastron of the striped silk; bonnet of navy blue velvet, with leaves of Virginian creeper. Mrs. John Sandeman wore ruby, with a profusion of lace about the throat, fastened with diamonds. Lady Jessel a handsome cloak made of an Indian shawl trimmed with black fur, and wore a ruby bonnet. Mrs. Blencowe Cookson wore a bodice and train of mouse-coloured velvet, over a skirt of bouillonnés of cream silk, separated by bands of velvet; the favours had each a primrose in the centre. Mr. Ernest Sandeman was his brother's best man. Bride's travelling dress, entire costume of brown velvet, trimmed with marabout feathers. After the ceremony the near relatives adjourned to Mrs. Fenwick's house in Eaton-place, and the newly-wedded pair left shortly after *en route* for Paris.

The Duke of Grafton's Hunt Ball at Towcester took place on the 9th inst., and was a brilliant affair. The gentlemen of the hunt wore their red coats, as did a few others belonging to different hunts. The rooms were beautifully decorated, trophies of the sport looping up hangings of crimson cloth, and a large ducal coronet in the centre of a shield and gigantic horseshoe at one end of the room. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock to Coote and Tinney's band. Two sisters wore skirts of grey tulle and silver gauze, with pointed bodices of grey brocade trimmed silver lace and cluster of shaded pansies. A lovely dress was of yellow tulle made with flounces in front and long full skirt at the back, powdered with bronze beads; bodice of yellow satin edged with bronze beaded brown velvet leaves and one large cluster of pale yellow roses; the long gloves, matching the dresses, were embroidered up the back with beads. A cream satin dress had the bodice and paniers all in one of cream blonde lace, caught up on the hips far back, with clusters of white marabout feathers and cream silk cord; a ruff of feathers on a foundation of satin stood up from the half-high square bodice. A white tulle dress of the most feathery softness had primroses, violets, and snowdrops arranged as paniers coming from each shoulder, meeting at the waist, and branching off; a wreath to match was worn in the hair, and a large white fan edged with them.

The Lord President of the Council and Countess Spencer entertained at dinner on Saturday, at Spencer House, St. James's, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Gladstone, Prince Lobanoff, Marquis of Hartington, Earl and Countess Granville, Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, Earl of Rosebery, Earl of Northbrook and Lady Emma Baring, Lord and Lady Carrington, Viscount Carlingford, Lord and Lady Charles Bruce, the Right Hon. the Speaker and Hon. Mrs. Brand, Hon. R. Spencer, Hon. Lilah Agar-Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. E. Baring. Later in the evening the Countess had a reception, and among the more noteworthy dresses were those of the hostess, who wore splendid diamonds, the Marchioness of Tavistock, Countesses of St. Germans, Beauchamp, and Antrim, Baroness Bolsover, and Lady Harcourt. A cherry-coloured satin had a white Brussels lace shawl gracefully draped across the front, and fastened on one side by a cascade of satin and moire bows; the bodice and train were of white silk, brocaded with large bunches of cherry-coloured flowers. A pale blue satin dress had the front composed of bouillonnés, separated by bands of claret velvet, covered with fine point de Venise; the bodice was of blue brocade, with revers of claret velvet, and the train was so arranged as to seem as if every breadth opened to show a velvet lining; diamond stars on claret velvet round the throat, and also on a bandeau in the hair.

Lady Isabella Schuster had her second dance on the 9th, at her residence in Cavendish-square, which was very numerously and fashionably attended. The hostess wore a handsome toilet and diamonds. An eau de Nil tulle over satin had a garland of blush roses, with hanging buds and leaves across the front, which was formed of alternate bouillonnés and frills. The low bodice was pointed in front, and had a long basque behind, and was of myrtle green velvet brocade, on a ground of eau de Nil. A black tulle worn over satin was elaborately embroidered with steel beads, and trimmed with steel lace and fringe; it was looped high on one side with bouquets of pale pink roses, with shaded velvet foliage; the bodice was of satin, low and pointed; one sleeve formed of a spray of roses, the other of a frill of steel lace; roses and very fine diamonds were worn in the hair.

A grand fancy-dress ball took place on the 10th inst., at the Portland Hall, Southsea, under the patronage of the Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar and the military and naval authorities at Portsmouth. The decorations were on a scale of great splendour, the lobbies being literally shrubberies of tall plants and ferns, and the ballroom canopied and decorated with flowers. The string band of the R.M.A. occupied the orchestra, and dancing commenced at half-past nine. The Highland schottische and Sir Roger de Coverley, danced by the guests in fancy costumes, was an interesting sight. Some of the costumes were very uncommon. A Cloud with a Silver Lining was beautifully carried out in grey tulle of two shades, with silver peeping out; also a Workbox, time of Louis XIV., La Dame Blanche, Duchess of Devonshire, by Gainsborough, Lady Hamilton, by Romney (from old pictures), a Country Lass One Hundred Years Ago, a Hungarian Peasant, &c. Lady Albert Seymour appeared as La Mascotte, and Lord Albert in his handsome A.D.C.'s uniform; Miss Peto as A Sunbeam, in a very brilliant costume; Lady Langley as A Chaperone of the Nineteenth Century; Misses Tottenham as Red Cross Nurse and Lurline. Hon. Mr. Bethel wore a splendid dress as Duke of Buckingham, and Lord St. Vincent in Court dress. Miss Matthews, as A Powder Puff, was all in white tulle and swansdown, with a little cap like the coloured kid top of a puff. Ivy was pretty, and so was Early Spring, with skirts of grass-green tulle, with satin coat and lace fichu, trimmed with spring flowers; on the head a wreath of sprouting twigs, with a bird; ornaments of primroses. Pink China and White China (sisters) were, even to fans, dressed exactly alike, with the exception of colour. Rose Leaves was prettily carried out in white net, with paniers and fichu edged with green leaves, and coloured rose petals scattered all over from the hair to the shoes.

On Monday evening a fancy-dress ball was given at the Assembly Rooms, Southsea, by members of the Pyrrhic Club. Upwards of 250 guests assembled in every variety of costume. The military and naval officers for many miles round were present, and also the leading families of Portsmouth, Southsea, and the neighbourhood. Some splendid foreign as well as English uniforms were to be seen, and several officers of Highland regiments. Among the ladies' costumes was a pretty one entitled Oranges and Lemons, the tulle skirts being of the two shades of yellow, looped with clusters of the fruit; a green silk pointed bodice, profusely trimmed with leaves and small oranges and lemons edging the short sleeves; on the head was worn a wreath of fruit, and a cluster of the white flowers to one side; the large yellow fan being trimmed "to match." A Snowstorm was prettily carried out, with a dress of tulle, paniers of the same, covered with marabout feather trimming; bodice with high ruff of feathers; wreath of frosted twigs, with tufts of marabouts and a veil of tulle, powdered with marabouts falling from the sides of the wreath, fastened to the shoulders, and arranged as a sacque at the back. The long gloves were dotted over with the feathers, and the circular fan carried in the hand was of green leaves, half covered with the same to simulate snow, half melted. A French hunting costume of the fifteenth century was admirably carried out in buff satin and ruby velvet, with three-cornered hat laced with gold; whip and buckskin gauntlet gloves. Sunflowers and Lilies was carried out in yellow and which cashmere, the two large flowers being well amalgamated on both bodice and skirt, the headdress being of a single sunflower taking the form of a little cap, with a large lily arranged at one side low on the hair. Some Poudré costumes, worn by ladies and gentlemen both, were much admired.

"J. L." is correct in his solution of the Gladstone puzzle of last week. Reform is what Mr. Gladstone loves; a Tory is what he hates; he would like to reform a Tory, and a Reformatory is the place to which he ought to be sent. We wish all the other problems which the Prime Minister suggests could be as easily solved, and share "J. L.'s" sincere wish that W. E. G. was safely housed in the word of eleven letters.

The Rev. H. O. Middleton has increased his subscription to the National Society from £300 to £400 annually.

The Rev. W. H. Ridley, rector of Hambledon, Bucks, Hon. Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and Rural Dean, died at Brighton yesterday morning, after a lingering illness.

The following are the appointed preachers at the midday (1.15 p.m.) service during Lent at St. Paul's Cathedral :—Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday) to 25, the Rev. A. J. Mason, Canon of Truro; Feb. 27 to March 4, the Rev. W. H. Hutchings, Sub-Warden of the Clewer House of Mercy; March 6-11, the Dean of Bangor; March 13-18, the Rev. S. R. Hole, Prebendary of Lincoln, and vicar of Caunton; March 20-25, the Rev. George Body, vicar of Kirkby Misperton; March 27 to April 1, the Rev W. J. Knox-Little, Canon of Worcester, and rector of St. Alban's, Manchester; April 3-6, the Rev. F. Paget, senior student of Christ Church, Oxford. On Good Friday, Meditations on the "Three Hours' Agony" will be given by the Rev. W. H. Cleaver, Chaplain of St. Peter's Home, Kilburn. There will also be a sermon at Evensong on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Printed and Published by Thomas Dixon, at the Office, No. 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.—Saturday, Feb. 18, 1882.